



DAUGHTERS OF UTAH PIONEERS

LESSON FOR FEBRUARY 2000

HISTORY OF WASATCH COUNTY

Compiled by Mary N. Porter Harris

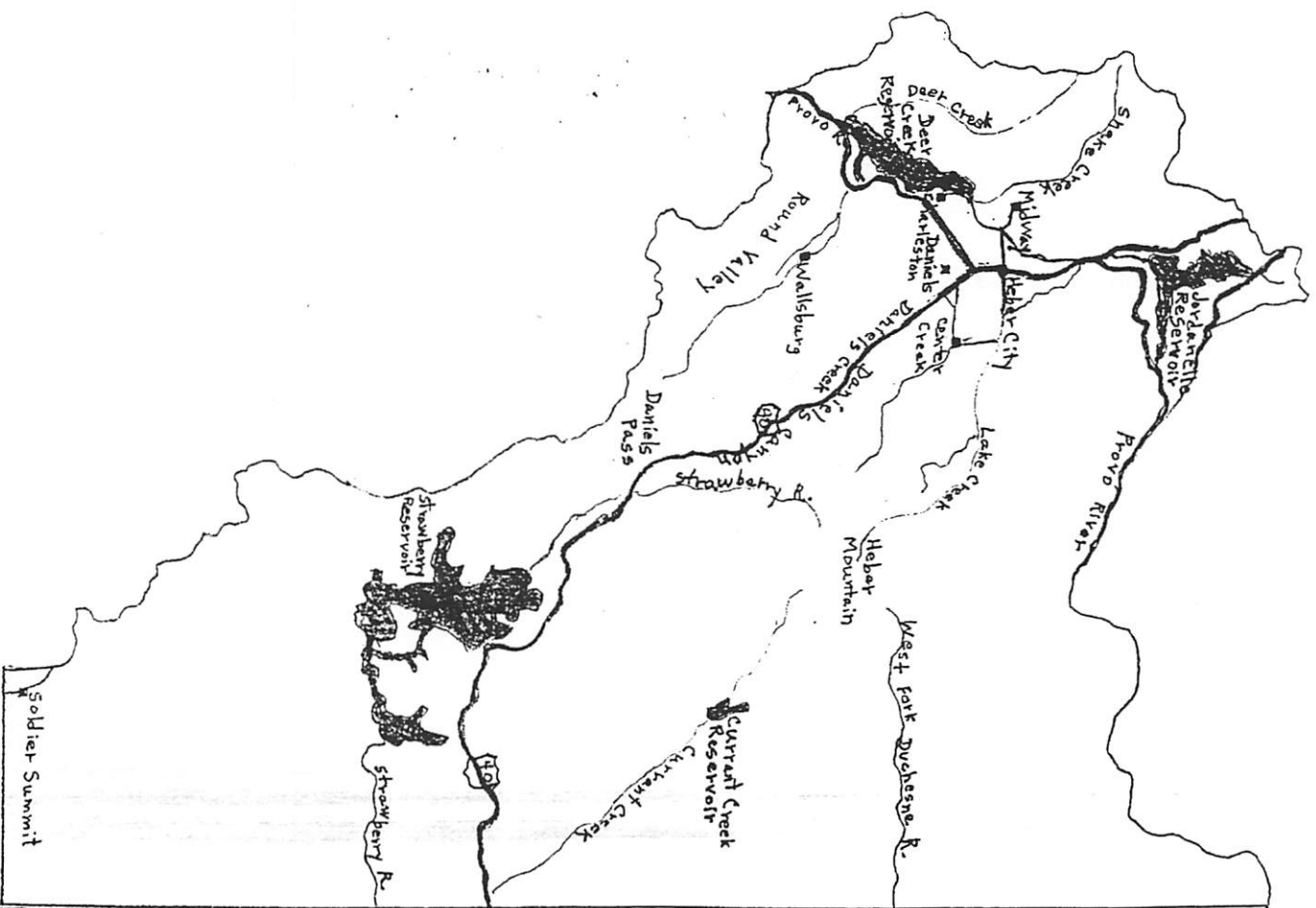
INTRODUCTION



When I turned and looked west, I think I stopped breathing. There the sky was dark and polished. High against it, lifting from black slopes and above terraces streaked with horizontal snow-banks, the Wasatch threw up a great grey gleaming massif of snow and stone, and just above the mountain's long roof, dully metallic, as round and unluminous as a nickel, was pasted the moon. I could have reached up and peeled it off the sky like a corn plaster. The wind that came down cold off the magnificent mountain was the breath of eternity.—Words written by author Wallace Stegner after viewing Mount Timpanogos for the first time from the Heber Valley side.

Heber Valley is often called Utah's Switzerland because of its shape and location, surrounded by mountains with Mount Timpanogos towering over the west border of the valley. It was first settled by English converts to the LDS Church. Later, missionaries to Switzerland in the latter part of the 1800s encouraged the immigration of many Swiss families into the Midway area. The county's highest peaks are over 10,000 feet high, and over half of its area is at least 7,500 feet above sea level.

After the Salt Lake Valley was settled, Brigham Young encouraged settlers to colonize the areas south and north of Salt Lake City. This opened up new farmlands for the hundreds of settlers who were arriving each month. During the first decade after 1847, settlements were established as far south as St. George and as far north as Cache Valley. The Provo area was settled about 1849 and grew rapidly until about 1857 when the settlers in that area began looking toward the valley on the other side of the Wasatch Mountains.



Wasatch County

"One summer Sunday morning in 1857, a group of workmen at a sawmill in Big Cottonwood Canyon, southeast of the Salt Lake Valley, decided to spend the day looking at the rumored 'paradise land' nestled in the tops of the Wasatch range. The men, Charles N. Carroll, George Jacques, James Adams, and others hiked to the summit of the range and brought back glowing reports of a desirable agricultural valley."⁷¹

Others explored the valley, but some felt that the climate was too cold to raise crops. A hardy group, which included William Wall, George W. Bean, and Aaron Daniels, drove their stock through Provo Canyon and established ranches near the south end of the valley.

"The first steps toward settlement came in July 1858 when a party headed by J. W. Snow, county surveyor in Provo, went to the valley and laid out a section of ground just north of the present site of Heber City. Twenty-acre tracts were surveyed and each man in the party selected his farm. After settling in the valley, the men turned their attention to the feasibility of constructing a road through Provo Canyon. As early as 1852, an explorer, William Gardner, had recommended that such a road be constructed. Then in 1855, the Territorial Legislature enacted a measure empowering Aaron Johnson, Thomas S. Williams, Evan M. Green, and William Wall to construct a road from the mouth of Provo Canyon in Utah County to the Kanab prairie. From there it was to travel north easterly on the most feasible route until it intercepted the main traveled road from the United States to the Great Salt Lake, near Black Fork in Green River county."⁷²

The construction of this road was canceled due to the arrival in 1858 of federal troops in the territory commanded by General Albert Sidney Johnston. After the peaceful arrival of the troops, things were somewhat normal again; and on June 6, 1858, at a meeting in the bowerly in Provo, President Brigham Young once more recommended the construction of the road "so that you can go into the valleys of the Weber where there is plenty of timber." He reminded them that the legislative assembly had already chartered the road, and he called for five hundred laborers to begin its construction. The Provo Kanyon Company was formed with Feramor Little as superintendent of the project and W. G. Mills as clerk. Work began immediately on the road. As part of the construction, it was necessary to build a bridge over the Provo River near the mouth of the canyon, and Henry Grow, who later was to gain fame in the construction of the Salt Lake Temple, was the engineer for the bridge.

"While the road saved many miles for transcontinental teamsters and travelers in and out of Utah County, its most important contribution came in opening up Wasatch County for permanent settlement."⁷³

SETTLEMENT OF WASATCH COUNTY

With the completion of the road through the canyon and the bridge over the Provo River completed, eleven pioneer families from Utah Valley prepared to leave their homes and move to the new area. William Meeks was appointed leader of the group. On the last day of April in 1859, the eleven men with their three wagons and teams of oxen, left Provo. A late spring had prevented them leaving earlier. The families of the men remained behind in Provo until log cabins could be built to accommodate them. The men in this first group were Thomas Rasband, John Crook, Charles N. Carroll, John Carlile, John Jordan, Henry Chatwin, Jesse Bond, James Carlile, William Giles Jr., William Carpenter, and George Carlile.

Travel through the canyon was slow as the severe winter had damaged the canyon road. Several snowslides blocked their route which made the journey "hazardous as well as exhausting." A written record of the journey was made by John Crook.

April 30, 1859. We camped at a snowslide in Provo Canyon that night. The next morning we pulled our wagons to pieces and carried them to the top of the snowslide which was about a quarter of a mile wide. Our May Day excursion consisted of traveling on up the canyon from the snowslide to William Wall's ranch where we camped. The next day we crossed Daniels Creek on the ice. There were heavy drifts of snow behind the willow bushes. We thought we were the first settlers to arrive in the valley that spring, but when we reached the present site of Heber, we saw two teams plowing north of us which proved to be William Davidson plowing with two yoke of oxen and Robert Broadhead and James Davis with a similar outfit between them. We found that William Davidson had his family here, which I believe was the first family in the valley.

"Exchanging greetings with the men whom they found already in the valley, the group went on to a spring about a mile north of the present site of Heber. They made their camp here, as John Crook notes in his journal, because this was considered the best land in the valley. As their camp was the largest in the valley and most of them originally had come from Great Britain, they called it London. The spring by which they camped still retains that name."⁴

The men each claimed a section of land, either twenty or forty acres, and began clearing the sagebrush and planting their crops. They camped in tents or in their wagons but soon spent time laying out a townsite and building log houses. They built their homes close together in a fort for protection from the Indians if that became necessary. The northwest corner of the townsite became Fort Heber.

The area for the fort was 80 rods square, lying between what is now First West and Third West streets and 2nd North and 5th North streets in Heber City. The houses were built close together with openings to allow stock in and out. The logs for the homes were green cottonwood logs cut on the river bottoms. There were dirt floors and dirt roofs, with mud packed between the logs to keep out the elements. When the huts were prepared and crops planted, the men returned to Provo to get their families.

"With wives, children, cows, pigs, chickens, and all their earthly possessions packed, the original company started out and were joined by others who were cheered by the reports of a good summer and plenty of farming land and irrigation water. Some of the additional families who came were Thomas H. Giles, John Giles, and Hiram Oaks."⁵

That first winter in the valley (1859-60) was a long and dreary one. The settlers were cut off from the rest of the territory, and the snow fell early and was several feet deep. A group of young people from Provo braved the weather and came through the canyon by sleigh to spend the holidays with those in the valley. After they returned home, there were no more visitors until the snows melted.

Church meetings were held each Sabbath day in one of the homes, and for entertainment they gathered together during the week for singing, dancing, and dramatics. This way they were able to endure the long winter in their primitive homes.

PROVO VALLEY IN 1860

The valley was known at that time as Provo Valley after the river which ran through it. William Meeks had been appointed the original leader of the first group of settlers, but he never established a home in the valley. In the spring of 1860, William Madison Wall was appointed as presiding elder with John M. Murdock and James Laird as his counselors. By June of 1860, there were more than two hundred people living in the new valley. Good crops were being raised in what was called the "North Field."

In July 1860 the people began talking about celebrating the arrival of the pioneers in the territory thirteen years previously. A suggestion was made to build a bowery, but John M. Murdock stated that, with a little more effort, a meetinghouse could be built which would serve as a church and also as a school building, dance hall, theater, and for all kinds of community gatherings. Logs were brought from the hills, and stone was quarried for the fireplaces and chimneys. Through the hard work of the community, the building was completed in time for the

celebration. The structure was built inside the fort and was 20 x 40 feet in size. An open fireplace was built in each end which was large enough to take logs three to four feet long. Families took turns making and furnishing candles to light the building.

With the growth of the community, the need for a permanent name was apparent. As most of the early pioneers in the valley had been converted to the gospel in Great Britain, and Heber C. Kimball, counselor to President Young, had been in charge of the first group of missionaries to the British Isles, the popular feeling was to name the town after him. The community was named Heber City. President Kimball met with the people and said: "Now you people have named your little town after me. I want you to see to it that you are honest, upright citizens, and good Latter-day Saints that I may not have cause to be ashamed of you."

The harvest season of 1860 saw the first threshing machine brought into the area. Two men, identified as Smith and Bullock, brought the machine which was small and threshed very slowly and used horses as its source of power. The fanning mill used to separate the kernels from the chaff was hand operated.

With a new meetinghouse in which to hold their church services, a choir was organized with John Crook as choir leader. School was conducted during the winter months with John M. Young as the first teacher and classes were held in the meetinghouse.

THE YEAR 1861

By the time spring arrived in 1861, Church leaders in Salt Lake City felt that Heber City was large enough to be organized into a ward. Joseph S. Murdock was ordained as bishop by President Young and was sent from American Fork to Heber City to take charge of Church affairs. He chose John W. Witt and Thomas Rasband as his counselors with John Hamilton as ward clerk.

Provisions were now made for both old and new settlers to plant vegetable gardens outside of the fort. Another bridge was built over the Provo River, located six miles north of Heber City on the road to Salt Lake City. A better and wider wagon road (toll road) was made through Provo Canyon.

Ephraim Smith and William P. Reynolds built a chopper run by horse power to chop wheat for those who could not go to the mills in Provo. John M. Murdock organized a cooperative sheep herd and cared for the sheep during the summer months. The sheep were taken far enough south to winter so that they did not need special supplies of hay. This method of caring for the sheep enabled nearly everyone to have a few

sheep to furnish wool for spinning and weaving into cloth. William Aird was the first community weaver.

In 1861 John Young came to Heber City and organized the first high priests quorum with Elisha Averett as president. John M. Murdock was appointed to the position a year later with counselors Thomas Todd and John Jordan and William Aird as clerk.

ORGANIZING A NEW COUNTY

At the time of the settlement of the valley, the land was claimed by two counties. Utah County claimed the southern area of the valley and Salt Lake County the northern part. The dividing line ran through the valley about one mile south of Heber. Both Heber and Midway were part of Salt Lake County. In 1862 the U.S. government created the Territory of Nevada out of the western part of the Territory of Utah, and county lines were revised in Utah. The Territorial Legislature created seventeen new counties, one of them being Wasatch County. The new county was bounded on the west by the summit of the Wasatch Range, on the north by Summit County, on the east by the line between Utah and Colorado, and on the south by Sanpete County. Later, a legislative act described the boundaries as follows:

All of that portion of the territory bounded on the south by Utah and Sanpete Counties, west by Utah and Great Salt Lake Counties, north by the summit of the range of mountains south of the headwaters of the East Canyon and Silver Creek, following said summit to the point where the road leading to Great Salt Lake City and Rhode's Valley crosses, thence south to the Provo River at the high bluff below Goddards' ranch; [It is believed that the Goddard's ranch mentioned is the present O'Driscoll ranch.] thence along the channel of said river to its headwaters, thence easterly to the summit of the range of mountains north of Uintah Valley, thence along the last named summit and south to Brown's hole to the 32nd meridian west from Washington City and east by said meridian, is hereby made and named Wasatch County with county seat at Heber City.

The creation of the new county was not without controversy. Other counties attempted to reclaim areas now included in Wasatch County. Abram Hatch was the legislative representative from Wasatch, and he stated at



Abram Hatch

one time: "Gentlemen, it seems our protests are all in vain, but we of Wasatch County will have the satisfaction of being in similar conditions to the Savior who was crucified between two thieves." He was referring to Summit and Utah counties.

John W. Witt was elected probate judge, and he conducted the first session of the county court on February 22, 1862. At that meeting he appointed Thomas Todd, James Duke, and John H. Van Wagoner selectmen. John Harvey was appointed assessor and collector; Snellen M. Johnson, sheriff; John M. Murdock, treasurer; John Sessions, surveyor; Thomas H. Giles, superintendent of common schools; Thomas Arbon, justice of the peace precinct No. 1, and Zemira Palmer, constable; Norton Jacobs, justice of the peace, precinct No. 2, and Sidney Epperson, constable.

When the names were presented to Brigham Young, acting governor of the territory, the name of John Hamilton was substituted for that of Snellen M. Johnson as sheriff. According to John Crook's journal, the population of the valley when the county was organized was over one thousand persons. The largest settlement was at Heber City with a small settlement along Snake Creek and another along Center Creek. There were also settlements at Charleston, some in Round Valley or Wallsburg, a small cluster of houses at Sessions Spring, and a few at a sheep ranch belonging to Melvin Ross and afterwards known as Hailstone's Ranch, about eight miles north of Heber (now covered by the waters of the Jordanelle reservoir).

THE VALLEY PROSPERS

Another county road was established on March 3, 1862, commencing at the Provo River southwest of Charleston and running in a northerly direction following the old immigrant trail through the valley, passing by Melvin Ross's ranch and terminating at the northern boundary of the county known then as the Ross Summit. Another county road established April 26, 1862, ran between Heber City and Center Creek and on to a sawmill in Center Creek Canyon.

Four school districts were designated in April 1862. District No. 1 included Heber City; No. 2 was at the Center Creek settlement; No. 3, the lower settlement on Snake Creek; and No. 4, the upper Snake Creek settlement.

Early in 1862, John H. Van Wagoner built a gristmill at Snake Creek's lower settlement. At times that year the river was so high that people couldn't get across to the mill. However, Henry McMullin, a ship builder from Maine, built a boat, and the grist was taken back and forth on the

boat. McMullin also built the first sawmill in the valley which was owned by William M. Wall and James Adams and was located in Center Creek Canyon.

The year 1862 was a good year for the settlers. Many were able to obtain good wagons from the soldiers in Johnston's Army as they passed through the valley on their way east after Camp Floyd/Crittendon was closed down. The road through Provo Canyon and into Provo (Heber) Valley was the shortest route for them to travel east from their camp on the west side of Utah Lake in Cedar Valley. As the soldiers made their way through Provo Valley, they stopped to bury the body of a young woman near the place where the Jeffs Hotel later stood. Some people thought that "they had killed her to get rid of her in their mad rush to get back to take part in the [Civil] war. Quite a number of young women were ruined by the soldiers while they remained in the territory."⁶

According to county records, the assessed valuation of property in Wasatch County for 1863 was \$53,572. That same year, William M. Wall applied to the probate court for a grant to use Round Valley as a herd ground for cattle and horses, and the privilege was granted. About the same time, a number of other applications were made to use Strawberry Valley and other areas for grazing purposes. This year also showed great improvement in the homes of settlers. Many now had discarded their dirt roofs for shingles which were made by hand by David Stevenson. As people felt safer from Indian attacks, they moved outside the city limits. Settlements had been made on Center Creek as early as 1860, and a number lived at Charleston and on Daniels Creek. Two settlements were taking place across the Provo River called the upper and lower settlements on Snake Creek.

In 1863, spring came early and crops that year were good. William Reynolds had obtained another threshing machine, but it was no better than the first. The grain still had to be separated by hand, and grain often had to stand in the stack all winter as it had not been processed before the deep snow came.

Mowing and reaping machines were brought to the county about 1864. A man had to sit on the "Buckeye" machine and push the bundles. The machine transferred much of the hardest work from the man to the horse but still left the driver plenty to do. The hay rake, drawn by a horse, was another great help. Later the bull rake and derrick along with the sulky plow and patent harrow made life easier for the farmer.

The first steam sawmill in the county was brought to the valley and operated by John Turner and Thomas Nicol. It was set up in Center Creek Canyon and was a great benefit to the people in building homes, barns, and sheds. It furnished employment for men hauling timbers and lumber to Park City and the nearby mines.

William Moulton started a milk ranch and butchering business that furnished a market for beef, mutton, and other farm products. Park City became a good market for hay, oats, butter, eggs, and potatoes from Wasatch County. Money became more plentiful, and people could make more improvements in their homes.

According to Wasatch County DUP historian Ethel Johnson, T. S. Watson ran the first daily stage between Heber City and Park City. Later, Luke and Hatch took over that business as well as the Murdock brothers. E. J. Duke also engaged in the stage business and received a contract from the government to carry the daily mail between Park City and Heber City.

EARLY GOVERNMENT

Until the enactment of statehood, the county court, headed by the probate judge, constituted the chief legal power of the county. The judge was also a key figure in land titles. In 1864 the federal government restricted the legal power of the probate court to the settlement of estates, guardianships, and divorce matters. In 1872 additional responsibilities included the erection of a county jail. In 1878 the court was appointed as a board of equalization to adjust tax assessments and appoint election judges for each precinct. In 1880, provisions of the Edmunds-Tucker Act



Wasatch County Courthouse, constructed between 1878 and 1882. In the background is the Wasatch County Jail. Photograph from Wasatch DUP Publication.

made the office of probate judge an appointment of the President of the United States and transferred all divorce actions from the probate to the district court. Election laws were also changed. The office of county clerk was made an elective position in 1888, and in that same year, the precinct and county road offices were consolidated into the office of the district road supervisor.

In 1896, when Utah became a state, all county offices became elected positions which included three commissioners, county clerk, recorder, auditor, treasurer, assessor, attorney, and surveyor. The offices of clerk, recorder, and auditor were later combined in 1899. The first county commission consisted of John Clyde, Isaac O. Wall, and Wilford Van Wagoner.

"Probate judges and selectmen held many of their early meetings in the old LDS Tithing Office, a sandstone building on Main Street and First North. Later a county courthouse was proposed, and on March 4, 1878, the south half of the public square was selected as the courthouse site. Thomas H. Giles and Abram Hatch were appointed to direct the erection of the building."⁷

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES

The first bishop of the Heber City Ward was Joseph S. Murdock who was not then a resident of the area. He moved with his family to Heber City and began to organize the new ward. Bishop Murdock also directed Church affairs throughout the valley and appointed presiding elders in the communities which were large enough to meet separately. John Harvey was named to preside over Center Creek in 1861, and Sidney Epperson was called to preside over the upper Snake Creek settlement in 1862. In 1864 David Van Wagoner was sustained as presiding elder for the lower Snake Creek area; John Watkins of Midway was appointed to preside in Charleston, and he traveled there to hold meetings on Sundays. Bishop Murdock held his position until 1867 when he was called to move to Southern Utah to attempt to raise cotton there. He was greatly respected in the six years he had lived in the county and was known for his kindness and generosity. He was also respected by the Indians because he had reared a young Indian girl and then later married her.

"John W. Witt acted as bishop of the ward temporarily for several months, and in December 1867, President Young appointed Abram Hatch of Lehi, Utah County, as the new bishop of the ward. He left Utah County with his family near Christmas time and started for Heber City and his new calling. It happened to be a very cold, rainy day, and the canyon roads were bad, so William Averett, Robert Lindsay, and Orson Hicken

were dispatched to help the new bishop and his family make the journey. His coming to the valley opened a new era in the lives of the people, for not only was Hatch an able church administrator, but he was also a man of sound business and financial judgment. . . . Hatch was to serve the people well during the thirty-three years he held positions of Church leadership in the area. In addition to establishing a community store and strengthening the Church organization, Hatch encouraged the people to build better and more convenient homes and more adequate roads. He also played an important role in the construction of a canal that benefited the people of Heber City and vicinity for many years. During 1872 and 1873, Hatch directed the building of a social hall on Main Street. It was used for town meetings, church services, dances, and theatrical performances and served for many years."⁸

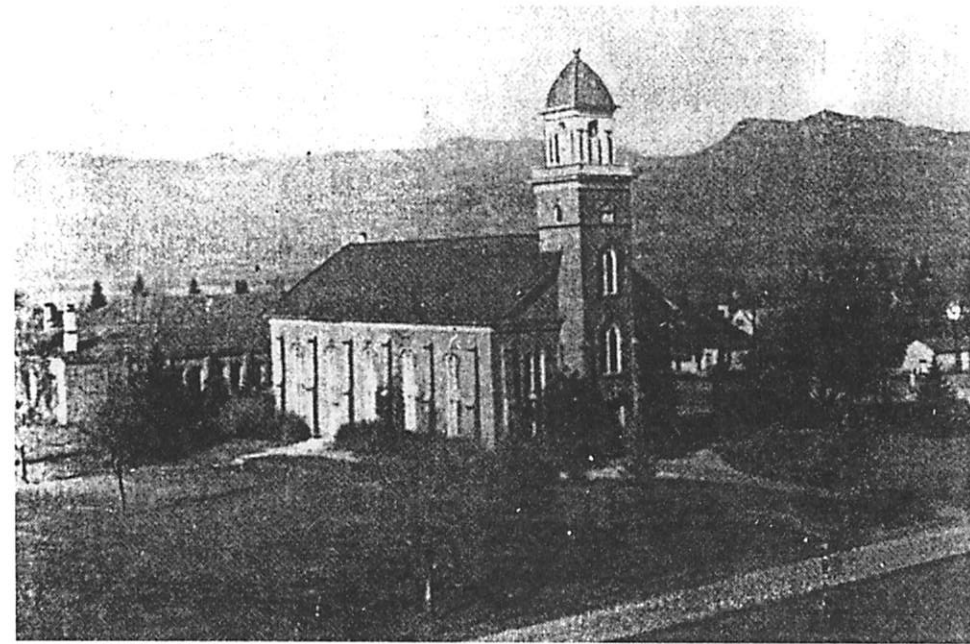
In 1877 a stake was organized and Bishop Hatch was called as the first stake president with Thomas H. Giles as first counselor, Henry S. Alexander, second counselor, and Charles Shelton, stake clerk. High councilmen were Joseph S. Murdock, John W. Witt, Isaac Baum, John Muir, James J. Howe, John McDonald, Gustavus Johnson, Henry McMullin Sr., George W. Brown, Attewall Wootton Sr., Henry Clegg, and Daniel Bigelow. Heber was divided into two wards with those living east of Main Street in the East Ward and all those living west of Main Street in the West Ward. Thomas Rasband was bishop of the East Ward, and William Forman headed the West Ward. The new stake extended into Uintah County on the east, north into what is now Summit County, and covered all of Wasatch County. Other wards in the stake included Midway, Wallsburg, Charleston, Buysville, Upper Daniels, Center Creek, Lake Creek, Francis, Benchcreek, Elkhorn, Riverdale, and Woodland. In Uintah County it included Ashley Center, Mill District, Ashley Fork, and Merrill wards.

Ten years after the stake was organized, President Hatch realized the need for a stake house or tabernacle. He organized the effort to construct the building which cost more than \$30,000. Donated labor and materials helped in the construction. The red sandstone was quarried by hand from mountains east of Heber City in Lake Creek. "The building was ready for dedication May 5, 1889, and Elder Francis M. Lyman of the Council of the Twelve came for the dedication."

The *Wasatch Wave* issue of May 11, 1889, reported:

The greatest number of people ever congregated in Heber at one time was at the dedication of the Stake House last Sunday and Monday. There were 1,300 people in the Stake House on Sunday afternoon, and it was stated 200 more could be comfortably seated.

The building was heated with four big pot-bellied stoves. Elizabeth



Early photograph of Wasatch Stake Tabernacle on Main Street, Heber City.
Photograph from Wasatch DUP Publication.

Lindsay wrote in her diary: "Uncle Jesse Bond, the janitor for thirty years, went religiously from one to the other stirring them noisily and replenishing the coal and then would disappear into the back room to see about the fire there. If the stirrings came in the middle of a solo or at the climax of a great sermon, it made no difference. President Hatch, who had traveled outside the state, used to tell us about heating plants which might be installed to take the place of these stoves, and it sounded fantastic to us."¹⁰

Winding steps led to the tower on the east end where a large bell was housed which was rung each Sunday morning at 9:30 to remind the Saints of Sunday School and again at 1:30 p.m. to remind them of sacrament meeting. This bell was also used as a fire alarm and for other important occasions. It was tolled slowly for funerals as the cortege approached the stake house.

The old tabernacle was in use until 1961 when stake and ward leaders proposed to build a new stake center. Church leaders decided to tear down the old tabernacle on Heber Town Square. "The decision caused an outcry from people throughout the state interested in preserving historic buildings. The dispute also split the community."¹¹

A committee was organized to save the historic building which delayed its destruction for a few years. In 1964 the LDS stake presidency

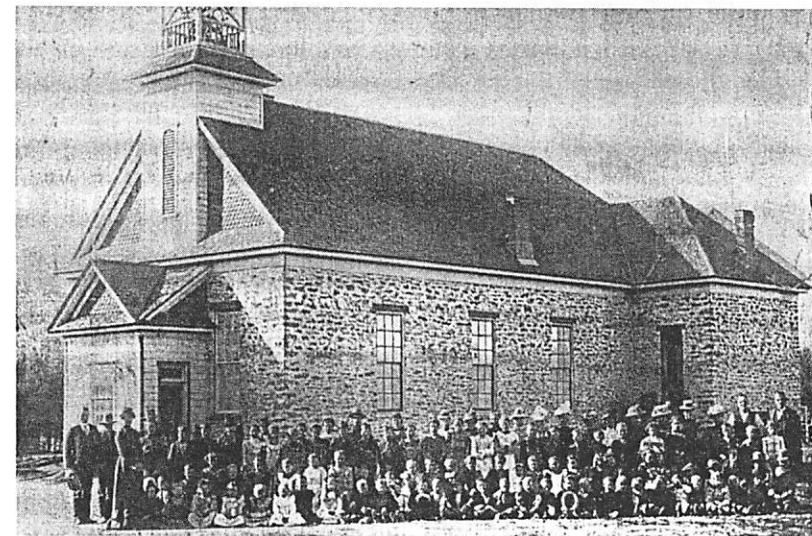
announced that not only the tabernacle but also the social hall would be torn down to make way for a new building. This led to further actions to save the building and involved more than just the community. A petition with 1,366 signatures was presented to the Church's financial committee which voted to find another place to build the stake center. "In October 1964 a fund raising effort began to collect the \$60,000 needed to purchase the site and repair the building."¹² In July 1965 Hugh B. Brown told a special priesthood meeting in Wasatch County that President David O. McKay wanted the building preserved. A deed was issued to Heber City Corporation with the restriction that if the tabernacle and grounds were not properly maintained, they would revert back to the Church. Further fund raising, spearheaded by Lucy Beth Rampton, wife of Governor Calvin Rampton, took place to raise \$100,000 which was needed to preserve the building. However, it was not until the 1980s that federal grants were obtained to convert the building into a city hall. In November 1988 the city held an open house to display the new city hall, formerly the old tabernacle building. The old amusement hall was also preserved and became the county senior citizen center.

PIONEER EDUCATION

The valley's first school was held in the joint community building erected in 1860 for the Pioneer Day celebration. It was located on what is now the corner of 3rd North and 2nd West streets. As the valley grew, twenty-two independent districts or schools were established. Early tuition for these schools amounted to about \$1.50 per term which was paid in either cash or produce. Many young students attended only part of the term since their families depended upon them to work on the family farms.

Two schools were in the Center Creek/Lake Creek area. Two more were in Charleston, one near the mound which now extends into the Deer Creek Reservoir and one in the upper area near the Winterton ranches. Two schools were in the Daniels area, one in the upper section on the hill and another in the valley below. In the Midway area there was one school in the upper settlement and one in the lower settlement before the two areas joined to form the single Midway community.

Three one-room schools were located north of Heber City, one at Riverdale on the corner just north of the Midway road where it intersects with U.S. Highway 40, another near Keetley where the Great Lakes Lumber operation later stood, and the third at Bench Creek above Woodland on the south side of the Provo River. Wallsburg had a school in the upper valley area known as Rose Hill and one on the grounds later occupied by the Wallsburg Ward Chapel.

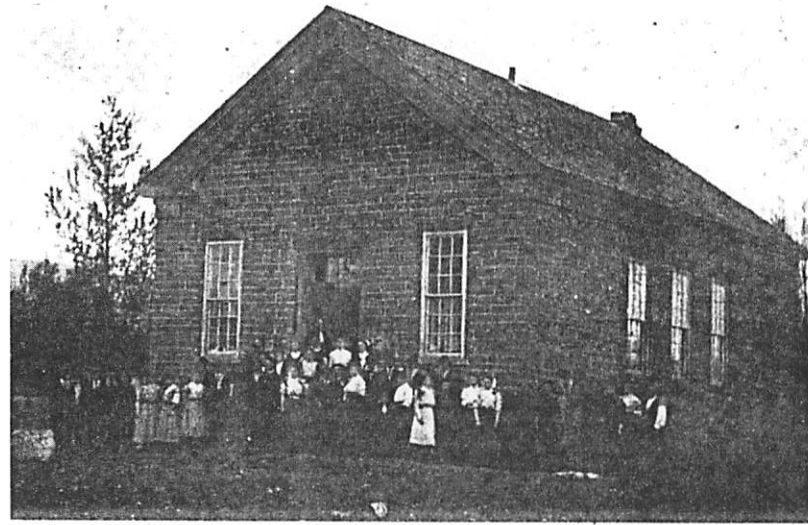


Charleston school and church. The building was constructed from the local pot-rock. Photograph from Wasatch DUP Publication.

In 1887 the one-room schools and the many independent districts were deemed ineffective, and laws were passed making it possible to consolidate school areas. Schools were now organized on a county basis, and Attewall Wootton Sr. became the first county superintendent. He had previously taught in the Midway schools and was popular throughout the valley. "Education was the total life of Attewall Wootton Sr., and those who came under his powerful influence were changed for the better. His own sons and many of those whom he taught later became teachers and leaders in Wasatch County as well as in many other areas. . . . By 1892 the theory of graded schools was being implemented in the valley, and Henry Aird became the first principal of a graded school in the county. The Heber Central School, as it was known, came about through the influence of Mr. Aird and William Buys, an early teacher and the founder, owner, and editor of the *Wasatch Wave* newspaper."¹³

There were Protestant schools in Wasatch County about 1883 which were welcomed due to the shortage of teachers in the valley. The New West School, located on the corner of 1st North and 2nd East streets, was established by the New West Educational Commission of the Congregational Church with Miss Angie L. Steele as the first teacher. Another of its early teachers, a Miss Shute, willed a considerable sum of money to the Wasatch County Library at her death.

The Methodist Church opened a church and school on the corner of Center Street and 1st West. One of the first teachers at this school was Ella Young who was a staunch supporter of prohibition, one of the issues of her day.



The Sleepy Hollow School, one of Heber City's early schools. This red sandstone building was used both for school and church functions. Located in the northeast section of town, it served as the first meetinghouse of the Heber East Ward and then as the Heber First Ward.

Most of these teachers at the Protestant schools were from the East and were well educated. "They brought a cultural and intellectual influence into the frontier country that contributed greatly in refining the communities in which they lived."¹⁴

The Wasatch Stake Academy, an LDS school, was established in Heber City in July 1888 at the instigation of LDS President Wilford Woodruff. Stake President Hatch chose eight men, one from each of the wards, to serve on its board of education, and plans were made to construct a building. Enoch Jorgensen was appointed principal, and the first classes were held in the back room of the stake tabernacle. Later, school was held in the upper story of the courthouse, the old Relief Society building on the northeast corner of the Tithing Office Block, the old Social Hall, and upstairs in the rock building housing Carter's Store. Carter's Store had also housed the Congregational School for a short time.

The academic year of the Academy was divided into four terms beginning September 9, 1889, and continuing through June 27. Tuition was \$4.00 a term, paid in advance. Pupils from communities outside of Heber were offered board and lodging with private families for \$2.50 to \$3.00 per week. The intermediate subjects were taught by Principal Jorgensen, and Miss Nelson was instructor of the preparatory grades. There was a heavy emphasis on theological subjects. "Students were

graded according to age, the priesthood they held, and previous training in religious subjects. School days were opened and closed with singing and prayers. There were daily recitations of scripture or other religious thoughts, and special Church services were held each Wednesday. On Monday evenings after school, Mr. Jorgensen held a general review of the previous week's theology lessons. Also, once a week a priesthood meeting was held to acquaint those who held the priesthood with its organization and duties."¹⁵

The formation of a public high school started in the school year 1898-99 when J. Reuben Clark Jr. of Grantsville, Tooele County, came to Wasatch County to teach high school subjects. His class consisted of a small group who met in the northwest room of the second floor of the Central Elementary School. Another high school course taught by Alfred J. Bond began soon afterwards in the upper story of a building occupied by John Winterrose, undertaker. In the years 1906 and 1907, further high school subjects were taught in the old "Sleepy Hollow" school by Alfred J. Ridges and O. J. Call. The present Wasatch High School had its beginnings in 1908 when classwork was started in rooms of the North School with three teachers—James Johnson, J. W. Robinson, and O. A. Whitaker. Some classes were also held in rooms adjoining the old bank just west of the Mercantile store. In 1912 the pot-rock portion of the high school was erected and classwork conducted on a regular basis. Additional classrooms and facilities which comprised the right wing or red brick portion of the old school were made in 1927 and provided a permanent home for the high school on the west side of Main Street.

EARLY-DAY INDIAN PROBLEMS

A Congressional act of May 5, 1864, had forced the Ute Indians of Sanpete and Sevier counties to a reservation in eastern Wasatch County. This led to bitterness on the part of many of the Indians, and some of them, led by Chief Black Hawk, refused to stay on the reservation land. An incident on April 10, 1865, involving the settlers near Manti and a group of Indians, incited the Indians to go on the warpath, and what became known as the Black Hawk War ensued. "By the spring of 1866, the Indians were making general raids, stealing cattle and threatening the lives of the white settlers. . . . The war began in earnest then. Because the Indian reservation was located in Wasatch County, the leaders of the territorial militia advised that the people band together to protect themselves. One small settlement was formed at Midway, but most of the valley moved into Heber City."¹⁶

On May 26, 1866, Colonel Robert T. Burton and David J. Ross arrived in Heber City to enroll all the available men in the valley into companies to protect the people and their animals. John W. Witt was appointed major with Charles Wilcken as adjutant. William M. Wall was appointed captain of a cavalry company, and John Hamilton and Thomas Todd were captains of infantry companies. John Galligher was captain of a silver grey company. The Midway cavalry company was headed by Sidney Epperson, and Ira Jacob was captain of the Midway infantry. Other officers were John Crook, David Van Wagoner, Joseph McCarrel, and John M. Murdock.

One of the first acts of the Wasatch militia was to make peace. Captain Wall, with a company of twenty-four men, took three wagonloads of supplies and started for the reservation. They also took a hundred head of beef cattle as a peace offering. Joseph S. McDonald, a member of the militia, reported the event in later years:

* * * * *

We arrived at the Indian Agency block houses on the west fork of the Duchesne River all right, and found two or three government men there but very few Indians, mostly squaws. Black Hawk and his warriors were further south. An Indian runner was sent to tell him that Captain Wall and his men had brought a herd of cattle as a present from President Young with his best wishes, and that he hoped the Indians would accept them and make peace and all be good friends again.

Chief Tabby, who had always been friendly and peaceable, had been persuaded by the other Indians that they had been greatly wronged, and he told Captain Wall, when he came into the agency, that he was mad and thought it would be good for blood to run, and that it was going to run when his Indians came in. He warned us to prepare for trouble.

When Chief Tabby had said this, we went to work to prepare to defend ourselves as quickly as possible, and it was wonderful what a few men could do to protect their lives in a very short time. A well was dug close by so we could get water, and with a large auger we bored port holes in one side of the block house so we could shoot if need be to defend ourselves. Then we built a strong corral around the cattle close by so that the Indians could not take them by force. In the meantime, we learned that the Indians had taken all their squaws and papooses back into the hills, out of the way of the expected fighting. This condition lasted some three days.

Then one morning we saw the Indians moving in among the cedars, and finally they came to a standstill. Chief Tabby sent an Indian to tell us he was coming quickly with ten or twelve Indians. We told him to tell Tabby we were ready, and if they came to fight, we would shoot them.

There were 275 Indians close by, and they circled around the agent's cabin a few feet away. Tabby got off his horse and went into the cabin. While he was in there, an Indian shouted and all the Indians ran into the cedars.

Captain Wall then said, "I'll go to the other cabin and talk to Tabby, and don't any of you go out while I am gone and don't let any Indians in here." He talked for three hours with Tabby and agreed to meet him again the next morning to decide whether it would be peace or war. Next morning, Tabby brought some Indians with him, and Captain Wall talked with him nearly all day. We learned that Tabby would make peace if we would kill a man in Sanpete County named Sloan. Of course, we could not agree to this, and after more talk, Tabby agreed to take the cattle and make peace as far as he was concerned.

That evening it was my turn to stand guard, and the Indians began to shout and yell as they stood around their campfire, and they all seemed to be very much excited. I reported to Captain Wall that they surely intended to kill us. When Tabby heard the noise, he went to their campfire and said, "What's the matter with you Indians? You know I have made peace with the Mormons. Stop your shouting."

Tabby told us in going home to keep on the wagon road and go as quickly as possible as he was afraid his Indians might shoot us as he could hardly restrain them.

* * * * *

Captain Wall and his men returned home after twelve days. Because of their long absence, the community had organized a search party to go look for them. One of the men's horses had returned to Heber City with a bullet wound and the town feared the worst. However, the wounded horse was the result of a horse rolling over, causing the gun on its saddle to discharge, and the horse was turned loose.

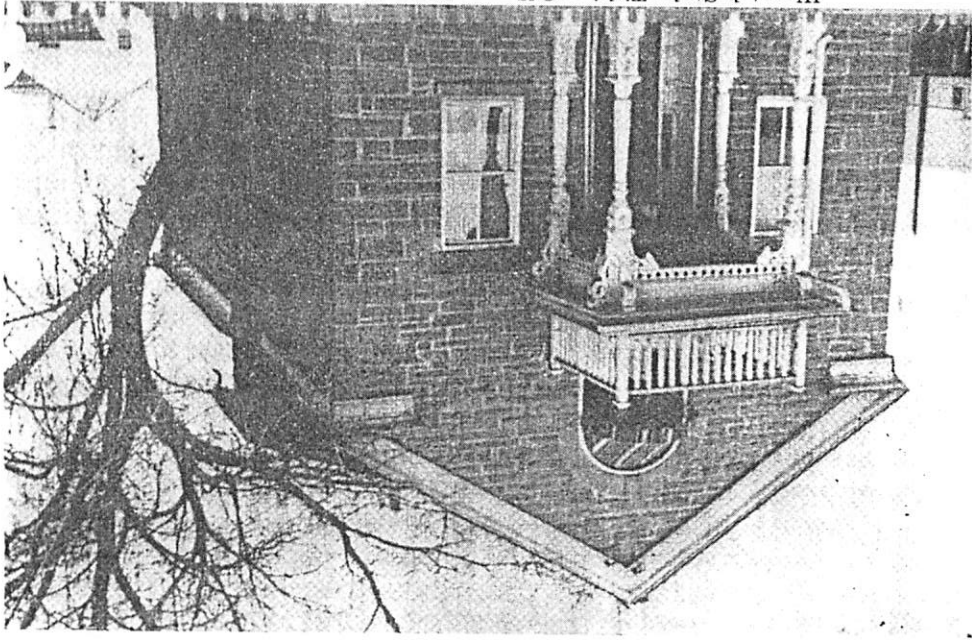
The efforts for peace with Chief Tabby had appeased the Indians of Provo Valley to some extent even though they continued to raid the livestock in the valley. The men of the valley were still constantly on guard in case any trouble surfaced.

"In 1867 Bishop Murdock invited Chief Tabby and some of the lesser chiefs to Heber, along with their squaws and papooses. An ox was killed and a big feast prepared in a specially built bowery. All the Indians seemed to enjoy the feast and went back to the reservation carrying a part of the beef along with flour, bacon, and other good things. This event is credited with creating much good will for few raids were made after that in Wasatch County. However, the war continued strong in other parts of the state until 1868 when peace was achieved."¹⁷

OTHER EARLY BUILDINGS AND BUSINESSES

The LDS Church Tithing Office, erected in 1888, was an important institution in the valley. Most of the tithing paid by Church members was in produce, and the office served as a central place for receiving and storing the goods. It was built out of the local sandstone on a large lot on the east side of Main Street at First North. It was two stories high with two rooms on the ground floor. The room on the west was used to transact business, and the other room was an office where groups could meet for any public, private, or Church business. This room also served as a public library with a small collection of books which included a set of encyclopedias donated by James B. Wilson. The second floor contained a meeting room. The basement was a large storage cellar divided into bins for potatoes and other vegetables.

Other buildings connected with the tithing building included a large two-story granary to the north with bins for storage of different grains. A stairway and a hand-operated elevator connected the two stories. A hay barn and hay shed were on the east portion of the block. "At harvest time it was quite common to have both buildings filled with hay and several stacks of hay in the yard. As many as fifteen loads of hay would often be unloaded in a day as conscientious farmers gave their tenth to the Lord."¹⁸



Wasatch Stake Tithing Office on Main Street in Heber City.
Photograph from Wasatch DUP Publication.

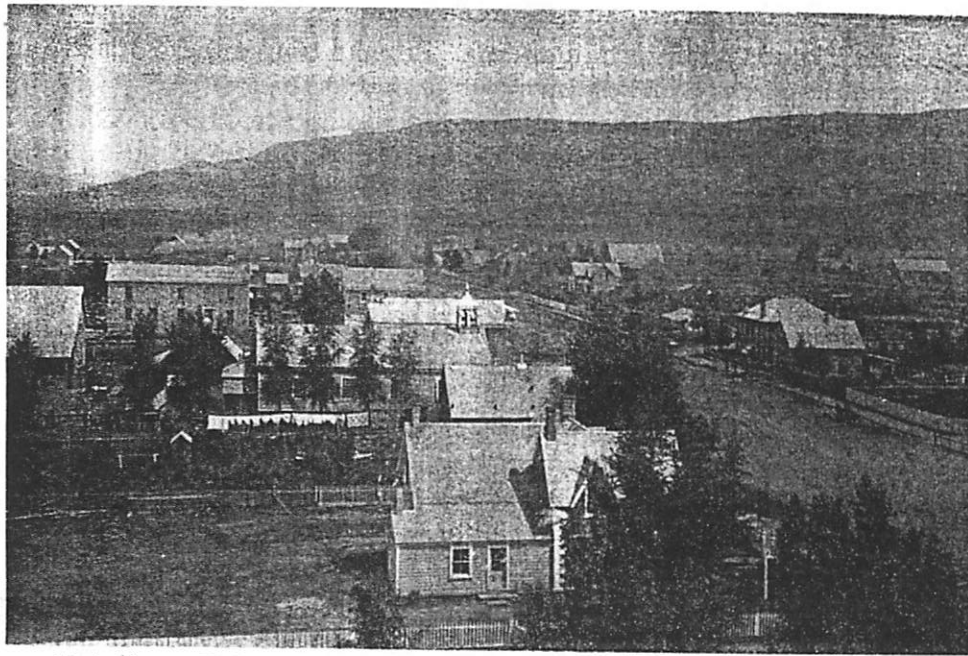
Several years later a baptismal font was added on the main floor to the east room of the tithing building. Prior to the building of the font, baptismal services took place in the summer at the Provo River, Spring Creek, the Millpond, or some other designated place.

In the fall of 1903, a fire broke out on the grounds and outbuildings surrounding the tithing office and destroyed the hay, barns, and sheds. A bucket brigade saved the tithing office itself. This brought an end to the payment of tithing "in kind," and farmers were urged to sell their produce and pay their tithes in cash. Better baptismal facilities were constructed in the new high school seminary building soon after the usefulness of the tithing office began to wane. The building was sold to Labon Hylton who converted it into two apartments and then sold the property to Lowe Ashton who constructed a service station on the site.

An amusement hall was constructed as a cooperative project of the three new wards in 1906 and 1907. It was badly needed to meet the growing demands of auxiliary organizations of the wards. It was known as the Heber Social Hall and was built under the supervision of Edward D. Clyde, mostly by volunteer laborers. It was constructed of native lumber and red sandstone. The huge maple dance floor is supported by more than four hundred coil springs and is still considered one of the best dance floors in the state. The building is used today as a senior citizens' center for the area.

One of the early stores in Heber City was F. O. Buell's store, built in 1894, south of the old Social Hall. Frederick O. Buell came to Utah in 1872 with his grandmother, Presendia H. Buell Kimball, one of the wives of Heber C. Kimball. He stayed in Salt Lake City and lived with President Brigham Young until 1876 and then returned to Missouri where he apprenticed as a tin and copper smith. He visited Summit County in 1882 at which time he met President Wilford Woodruff who told him there was a good opening in Heber City for a tinsmith. On May 14, 1883, he walked into Heber City with his tools and rented a small shop at 143 North Main. His business grew, and he eventually purchased the property and constructed a building. In 1884 he added a small stock of groceries and candy in addition to his tin-smith business. This was so successful that he opened a general merchandise business in 1894 in a larger building. On the second floor of his store, he built a community dance hall which was in constant use. He continued in his business until he retired on January 1, 1920, and moved to Provo.

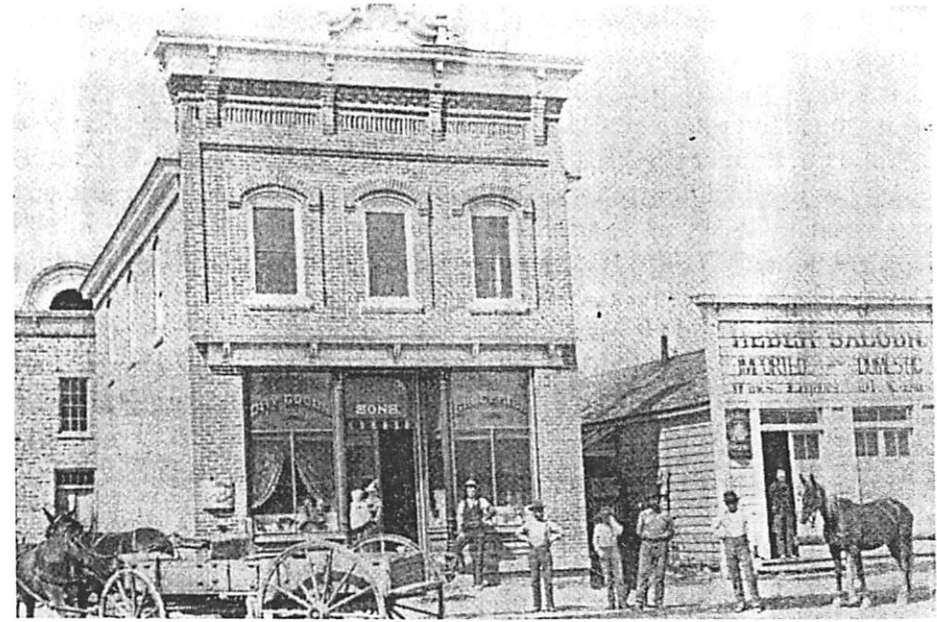
Another early store was commonly known as Mark's Store and was owned by Mark Jeffs. He promoted the use of his own medium of exchange. He made coins of tin in various denominations which he exchanged for the hay, grain, eggs, or any other produce that customers brought in. The



Main Street, Heber City, in 1882. Photograph from Wasatch DUP Publication

“scrip,” as it was known, could be used by his customers in exchange for merchandise. Similar coins or scrip were later used at the Heber Mercantile Company which succeeded Mark’s Store when Jeffs returned from serving a mission to England. Jeffs retained a half interest in the new business and acted as manager for a short time, then as president of the company.

“One of the most prosperous business sections in Heber over the years is the area known as Hatch’s Row. This section included buildings between Abram Hatch’s residence and his store on Main Street. Some of the businesses along this row have been a harness and shoe shop operated by Danielson and Dahlman, the A. L. Davis barber shop, a saddle and harness shop owned by Nephi Forman, the *Wave* printing and publishing offices, J. W. Buckley’s men’s store, the Smith Meat and Grocery operated by George Smith and Sons, Earl and Sylvan Smith, and others.”¹⁹ Later, the Aloma Motel was built on the old Hatch homesite. A newspaper advertisement in 1906 advertises A. Hatch & Company, established May 10, 1869, promising that “we can furnish from stock anything needed for furnishing a home, running a stock ranch, or developing a mine. Our line of agricultural implements is conceded by farmers to be the best in the market, and our prices on same are as low as inferior goods in same line. With our experience of 37 years, successful to us and satisfactory to our customers, we can say with all confidence: Come where you will be treated right, you know it.”



Turner Mercantile with opera house in back and McNay’s Heber Saloon on the right. Photograph from Wasatch DUP Publication.

Other announcements in the paper list the Central Meat Market (two doors south of the post office); Dayton & Sellers Grocery (two doors north of the post office); Wasatch Drug Store; Duncan Sisters Millinery (one door north of the post office); John Bond, undertaker and licensed embalmer; Dr. Robert Sabin, dentist in the Bank Block over Heber Drug Company; and the Heber Saloon, Levi Turner, Proprietor, “where you get what you pay for and pay for what you get.”

The first bank in the valley was built of red sandstone on the southwest corner of Main Street and Center Street. The building is presently being completely renovated into a modern office building. A gristmill was located on what is now known as Mill Road and Center Street. The Duncan Hotel, built in 1885, was located on Main Street. The first Central School stood on Main Street from the 1890s to 1923.

An important part of the community was the newspaper, the *Wasatch Wave*, first published in 1889 in the north room of the courthouse. “William H. Buys, owner, editor, and manager of the paper, worked feverishly to bring the first issue into being. The hand-set, Cheltenham, light-face type had arrived late from Salt Lake City, and Mr. Buys burned a lot of midnight oil to get the type set and the issue ready for the March 23, 1889, publication date.”²⁰ The paper has been published continually since that date and is owned once again by a member of the Buys family after a series of other owners. It has occupied several buildings during

those years and is now located in a modern building west of the main business area.

"Early pioneers in Heber were without the luxury of a shoemaker, and harness makers were without the facilities of a tannery to produce leather. However, in the spring of 1863, an experienced shoemaker named Gustaf Johnson from Sweden was persuaded to move to Heber and open a shoe trade. He set up shop in the home he built at the corner of First East and Second North. It was not until 1878, however, that a tannery was established. The cooperative project was established by businessmen of the community with John Muir as superintendent and John Holfeltz of Midway as the tanner. . . . Alfred Dahlman, another pioneer shoemaker, came from Sweden in 1878 where he had learned the trade. He and John Danielson, a harness maker, set up a shop on Hatch Row where he worked for some twenty-two years. Dahlman sewed and made the shoes entirely by hand. He turned the ladies' shoes inside out to sew them. He, like the other shoemakers, obtained leather from the tannery and later from Z.C.M.I. in Salt Lake City.

"John Roberts also served the community as a pioneer shoemaker, doing his work at first by hand, making men's boots as well as men's and women's shoes and was very competent at his work. He had learned the trade in England, coming here in 1892, and worked at his little shop in Heber on First West and Second North for twenty-seven years."²¹

John Davison was the first blacksmith in Heber City and had a shop in the old fort. His tools were made from scraps of iron that he picked up from different places. George Giles was another blacksmith who settled in Heber City after emigrating from England. He built his home and blacksmith shop on 3rd North, just west of Main Street. He brought his forge, anvil, and hammer with him from England. There were other blacksmiths in the valley as this was an important trade in pioneer days. Daniel McMillan and later William D. Johnston successfully operated a shop on Main Street.

John W. Witt, who operated a small store in the northwest part of Heber City, was the community's first postmaster although he was never officially commissioned by the government. He would receive letters from Provo and Salt Lake City and then hold them in his store until patrons called for them. Organized mail service did not occur until 1862 when Isaac O. Wall began carrying mail on horseback during the summer months. No service was provided during the winter. In spring months, when the Provo River was high, making it impossible for horses to cross, Wall extended a cable from trees on either side of the river and transferred mail pouches with the rider from Provo. John Gallagher was appointed official postmaster in 1870. Joseph Murdock hauled the mail

from Provo to Echo by way of Heber City and Kamas twice a week, winter and summer. Mose Cluff also carried mail for some time. When stage coach operations were started, mail service was facilitated by the daily stage runs.

WATER FOR IRRIGATION

The early settlers worked hard to insure that a supply of water necessary for raising crops in the valley was available. Many reservoirs were built to conserve the water supply. One project was called the Willow Creek ditch in Daniels Canyon, which took water from the Strawberry River and brought it through Daniels Canyon. A tunnel had to be driven through a mountain in 1872 to bring water from the Uinta Basin which was a considerable undertaking at that time with the equipment available. Today, with the construction of the dam for the Strawberry Reservoir in that valley in 1906 and the building of the West Portal Tunnel, this water is now part of the Central Utah Project which supplies water to the Wasatch Front.

The Center and Lake Creek Irrigation companies constructed reservoirs for the benefit of their water users, and several private individuals built reservoirs for their own convenience. John W. Witt was perhaps the first to build a reservoir in the county. It was in Lake Creek Canyon and was first used for running his water-power sawmill. It was later enlarged and is still used for irrigation purposes. (This reservoir is known as Witt's Lake in the Timberlakes subdivision.)

RIO GRANDE WESTERN RAILROAD

On September 29, 1899, the Provo Canyon branch of the Rio Grande Western Railroad was completed into Heber City, making it easier to ship livestock and farm commodities to outside markets. The *Wasatch Wave* announced that the railroad "became a reality . . . when the track layers crossed the county road onto the depot grounds at 4 o'clock. . . . The length of the road is 25.8 miles. There are seven stations on the line between Provo and Heber. Their names and their distances from Provo are as follows: Smoot, one mile; Crahurst, six miles; Nunns, nine miles; Falls, ten miles; Forks, twelve miles; Wallsburg, eighteen miles; Charleston, twenty-one miles. None of these stations will have an agent. E. W. Sullivan has been appointed agent at Heber. He comes well recommended having been in the employ of the company for a number of years."

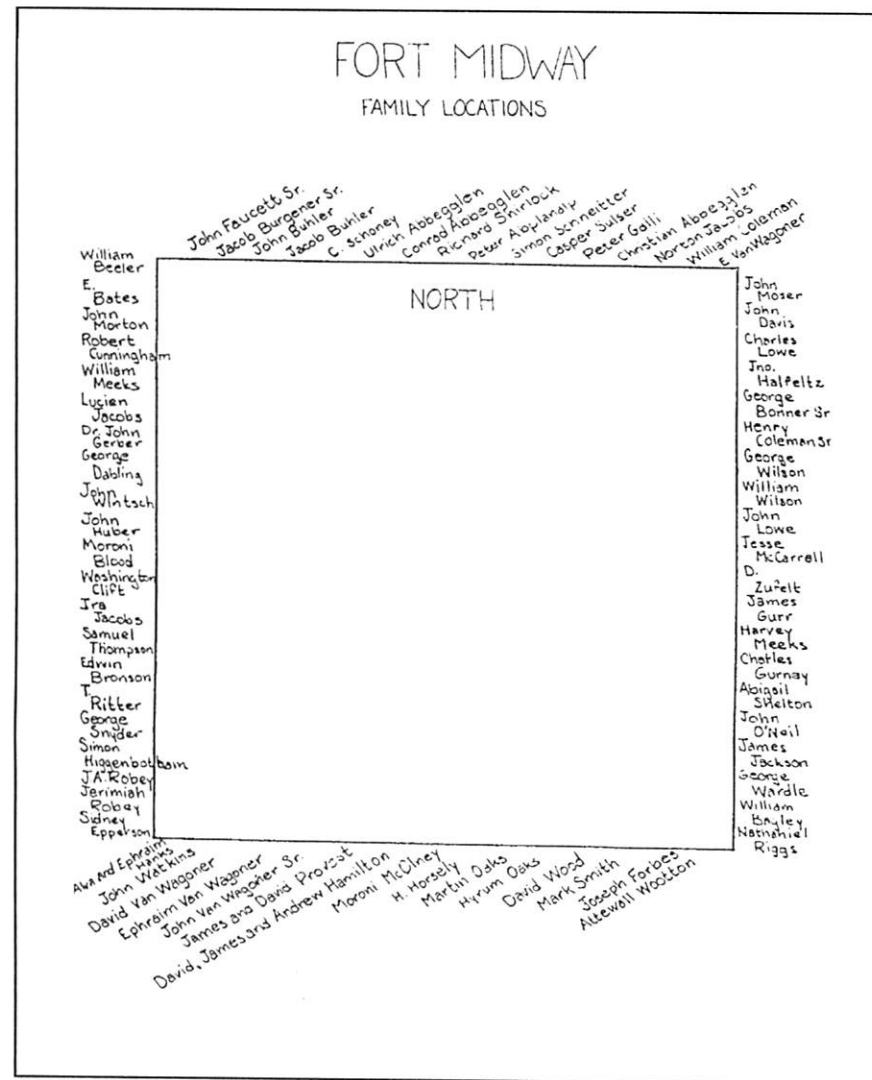
The *Wasatch Wave* of September 15, 1899, reported that the new depot building was to be 66 x 20 feet. The foundation had been completed and the building was under construction. "Yesterday [September



Heber City railroad depot. Photograph from Wasatch DUP Publication.

14, 1899] at 11:00 a.m. the band of steel that connected Heber with every prominent city in the United States reached Sixth West Street. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon, rails were laid to the depot. All about the depot grounds is a scene of activity, tie men, track layers, masons, carpenters, graders, all busily at work. The stock yards, consisting of six yards connected by massive gates and two chutes, are nearly completed. These yards will be filled with sheep this evening which, tomorrow morning, will be loaded on the cars and shipped east – the first train of stock shipped from this valley. This will no doubt be followed within the next few weeks by a number of similar shipments of both sheep and cattle.”

A special railroad holiday occurred on Friday, October 6, 1899, and people from all over the state were invited. A special train of seven cars arrived in Heber City at 3:00 p.m. carrying many state dignitaries, including Governor J. T. Hammond, Provo city officials, and about four hundred people. The train was met by residents of the entire county including the Heber Brass Band. A special platform had been erected at the courthouse where a program included a welcoming address by Abram Hatch, stake president. Mayor Jones of Provo made a brief response and each of the state officials spoke. These included Governor Hammond; James Chipman, state treasurer; Morgan Richards Jr., state auditor; J. J. Thomas, secretary of the state board of equalization; and U. S. Senator Reed Smoot.



Fort Midway plan showing the location of each family. DUP Files.

MIDWAY

In the spring of 1859, a number of families (mostly from Utah County) settled on the west side of the valley along Snake Creek and established two small communities. The first settlement was a mile and a half south of present-day Midway; the second was about three miles north of the first. The northernmost settlement was known as Mound City due to the numerous nearby limestone formations later known as the “hot pots.” According to Henry Van Wagoner, an early pioneer who came from Provo

and settled in the lower settlement in the 1860s, the following families lived in the lower settlement: David, Oscar, and Bill Woods, Jesse and Joseph McCarrell, Joseph Murdock, Mark Smith, Sidney H. Epperson, Jeremiah Robey, John Watkins, George Wardle, Herbert Orsler, Fred and Stephen Bee, Andrew Hamilton, Isaac Bowman, Attewall Wootton, Simon Hickenbottom, Thomas Perry, and others.

The upper settlement (Mound City) was located at the mouth of Snake Creek Canyon. The first families of the upper settlement were George Bonner, Peter Shirts, and David Van Wagoner.

In about the year 1865, a company of United States soldiers camped in what is now known as Soldier Hollow. (The area will be one of the venues for the Salt Lake City 2002 Olympics.)

In 1866 the settlers received instructions from President Brigham Young to move together into larger settlements because of Indian hostilities. The upper and lower settlements agreed to move halfway or midway between the two settlements and construct a fort. The new town was named Midway, and the fort was located on what became the public square. The present Midway Town Hall, completed June 13, 1941, sits on part of the site of the old fort. The Hawthorne Camp of the Daughters of Utah Pioneers placed a monument commemorating the old fort on the corner of Main and 100 West streets in front of the present town hall.

According to Henry Van Wagoner, a sawmill was built in the 1880s on what is now called the mill flat at the Snake Creek tunnel. This furnished employment for many young men. The logging was all done by ox teams.

Van Wagoner states: "The pioneers had to clear the land and kill the snakes. The snake den, up by Zwiefel's place, was literally lined with rattlesnakes. The men would take a little pole with a hook in the end and pull the snake out by the head, then kill it and cut a slit down its back and take the oil out. The oil was very valuable. It was put in small bottles and used as a rubbing oil to cure earache, croup, stiff joints, etc."

The first schoolhouse in Midway was a log building which stood just west of the spot later occupied by the Second Ward LDS chapel. School was held there two or three years with Simon Hickenbottom as the teacher. The seats were made of slabs with peg legs. When the children became thirsty, they had to go outside and lie on the ditch bank to drink. The books they used were the Wilson Readers, and they wrote on slates.

The next school was the post office building. The school was used for dances, meetings, and all public gatherings. Attewall Wootton Sr. was the teacher. Sarah Woods taught summer school in what was later the granary of William Van Wagoner Sr.

Sidney H. Epperson was the first presiding elder of the Midway Ward. Alva Alexander followed him, then David Van Wagoner, John Watkins, and Jacob Probst.

The first store was built by David Van Wagoner. It stood just west of where Guy Coleman's house later stood. It was a little frame building. Provisions for the store were hauled by ox teams from Heber City, Provo, and Salt Lake City.

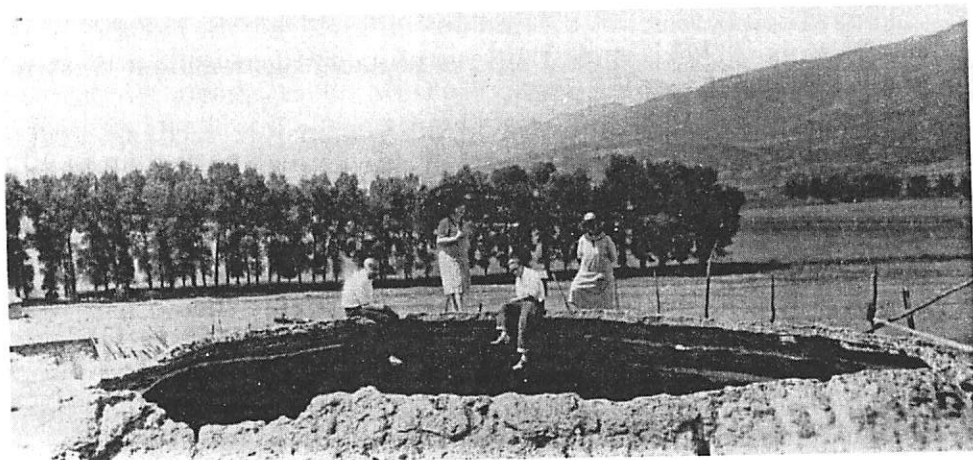
The first blacksmith shop was owned and operated by John Davis and was located in the public square, west of where the Second Ward chapel was built.

In 1875 the German Hall was built at 144 West 100 North to accommodate the large Swiss population. During the 1860s and 1870s a large number of Swiss immigrants arrived with names such as Gertsch, Huber, Kohler, Probst, Zenger, Durtschi, and Abegglen. They had been encouraged by several LDS missionaries from the Heber Valley who had proselyted in Switzerland to leave their native country and move to Midway. The hall was built for a dance and music house by Andrew and Christian Burgener, Peter Abplanalp, and others. Andrew Burgener was one of the best musicians in the state at that time, and he organized a German band.

In about 1888, David Van Wagoner built the Van Wagoner Hall which was used for an amusement hall for many years.

The Midway Social Hall was built in 1898 on Main Street between 100 East and Center Street. It was constructed out of the native pot rock and, according to the historical information on the building, it is a "simple, rectangular structure which incorporates classical architectural features such as a symmetrical principal facade and pedimented lintels. It shares a wall with the building to its east built c. 1905 that was originally Hair's Barber Shop and Ice Cream Parlor. Between c. 1910-40, a window that existed in the shared wall was opened during functions at the Social Hall so patrons could be served ice cream and sodas. It is one of the few known remaining social halls constructed in a Mormon community during the second half of the 19th century. It was the primary meeting place for local activities and celebrations and for religious and town meetings from its construction until the building of the Midway Town Hall in 1940."

The many canyons in the mountains were named by the pioneers. Pole Canyon, above the cemetery, was named because of the poles that were taken out by the pioneers. North of that canyon is Sid's Canyon named after Sidney H. Epperson, the first man to haul wood out of it. Indian Spring west of the cemetery was named because an Indian died and was buried there. Lime Canyon, west of Schneitter's resort, was

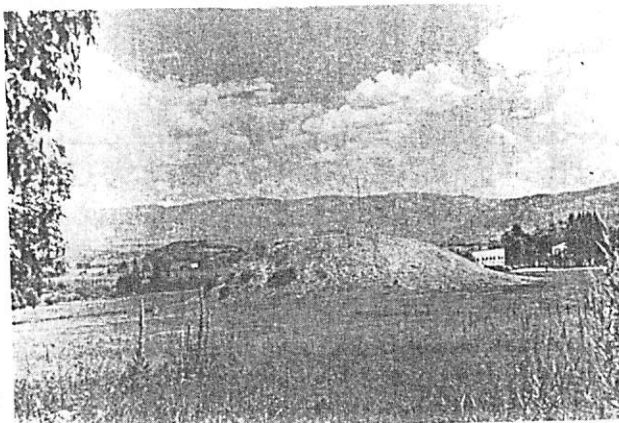


Luke's Hot Pots, Midway. This popular swimming place later became the Mountain Spa. Photograph from DUP Files.

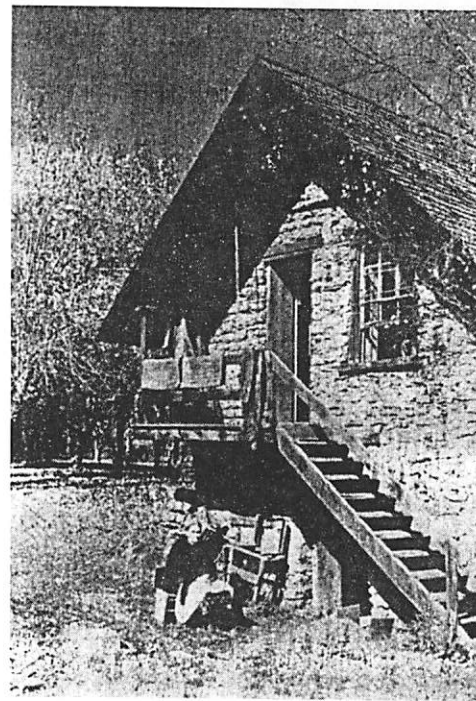
named for the first lime which was burned there by Allen Martin. Snake Creek was named for the snakes living in the area. Twist Canyon was first called Jacob's Twist as he was the first to haul wood from there. Pine Canyon and Mahogany Ridge were named for the trees which grew in them.²²

Although livestock raising and farming were the principal industries in the early days of Midway, other enterprises developed as needed. The first sawmill in the valley was built by Peter Shirts on Snake Creek and contained an old up-and-down saw. It was later purchased and operated by Henry Coleman Sr. David Van Wagoner built a shingle mill at the mouth of the canyon and operated it for some time.

The limestone blocks or "pot rock" from the limestone mounds formed by the numerous hot water springs that flowed from the bench land around upper Snake Creek, provided rocks used for fences or shaped for building material, and many prominent and substantial buildings were made from it. The hot water in turn provided the basis for commercial



Schneitter's Hot Pots in Midway, later part of the Homestead Resort. Photograph from Wasatch DUP Publication.



Milkhouse in Midway built from the local pot-rock. Photograph from Wasatch DUP Publication.

warm water swimming activities and health resorts. Two of these were Luke's Hot Pots (now the Mountain Spa) and Schneitter's Hot Pots (now the Homestead). Both resorts were established in the 1880s.

William Van Wagoner manufactured what was known as "Midway lime." The *Wasatch Wave* of November 3, 1899, reported that he was constructing a lime kiln at the Snake Den. "The Snake Den is a large mound of white limestone from which most of the rock has been taken for the manufacture of lime up to the present time. Mr. Van Wagoner was busy the other day when a *Wave* representative called, grading into the side of the mound, and he explained that as soon as a sufficient face was obtained, he would run a tunnel into the hill and

then begin at the top and sink a shaft down to the tunnel and construct his kiln in the solid rock."

Retail stores were developed. One was the Bonner Mercantile Store, constructed in 1879. Another retail business was founded by Henry T. Coleman and Simon Epperson in 1910 and was called the Midway Drug Store. It was a confectionary and grocery outlet which operated until 1986. The nearby mines in Park City also provided employment to many settlers.

The first post office was established in December 1864 with Silas Smith as postmaster.

A creamery was built on the John Huber farm in Midway and still stands today next to the Midway golf course. It was built from pot rock which is seen on many of the old homes in the Midway area.

Today an important part of the economy is recreation. Deer Creek Reservoir, Wasatch Mountain State Park, the nationally known Homestead Resort, golf courses, and other recreation facilities attract visitors to the area. It has become an area of condominiums and vacation homes for Utahns as well as for out-of-state visitors.

CHARLESTON

Charleston is situated on a level tract of land in Wasatch County near the southern bank of the Provo River, five miles southwest of Heber City and three miles south of Midway. One of the earliest men known to have been in the area was a trapper named Aaron Daniels who camped on the Provo River at the point where the channel of Daniels Creek empties into the river, about one mile north of the center of Charleston. He spent most of the winter of 1858-59 trapping in the valley.

Charles Shelton and his brother-in-law Alex Wilkins, surveyors from Provo, came into the valley to lay out some of the property. It is commonly believed that the town of Charleston was named after Charles Shelton. The first settlers to take up land claims in Charleston were George Noakes, William Manning, and Manning's son Freeman, all from Provo. They came in the spring of 1859 and put in a limited crop of grain but lost the entire crop through frost. William Manning built a log house and corral on his land, the first permanent building in the area. Others soon came including Ephraim K. Hanks and his family. In 1860, John S. McAfee and his family arrived from Scotland and began settling some of the lands near Mr. Hanks. Other settlers who followed were John Ritchie, Nymphas C. Murdock, William Wright, Lewis Mechem, Enoch Richins, George W. Brown, John Brown, and William Bagley.

The government opened up homesteading in 1862, and records show that John Eldridge was one of the first to receive homestead rights. He died before his homesteading time was completed, but his wife Sina completed the homestead. Others who took out homestead rights at this time included David Walker, George T. Giles, Joseph E. Taylor, Stanley Davis, Joseph Bagley, Emmanuel Richman, George Simmons, Esther Davies, Joseph Nelson, Isaac Brown, William Winterton, David Young, Els Gordon, and John Winterton. Later, George T. Giles sold his homestead of 80 acres to Joseph Taylor for \$100 which doubled the size of the Taylor property.

On Christmas Eve of 1864, Finity Daybell, his wife Mary, and their family arrived in Charleston to work on the homestead of Joseph E. Taylor. Daybell homesteaded his own place in 1865. Susie, Sarah, and Elizabeth Daybell, Emma Noakes Winterton, and three daughters of John Eldridge were among the first young women to live in Charleston. They ranged from eight years to seventeen years of age.

An article in the *Deseret News* of May 2, 1873, states: "Nymphas C. Murdock of Charleston, which is twenty-two miles from Provo and five miles from Heber City, called yesterday afternoon. He states that Charleston consists of about twenty-four families and that there is considerable

farming land there still open to pre-emptors. A new brick meetinghouse is in the process of construction and will shortly be completed. A small co-operative store is doing a good business, taking the produce of the people for goods and re-exchanging the produce again in other markets. Brother Murdock has charge of the store. There is no post office at Charleston yet, although it is on a direct mail route, but an application will soon be made by the people to the department for that very essential convenience."

The Charleston townsite was homesteaded by William Chatwin and his wife Irene. He received his patent September 10, 1872. The town was not officially incorporated until December 30, 1899. John M. Ritchie, William Daybell, G. W. Daybell, H. J. Wagstaff, and George T. Baker were trustees. The town business was organized January 10, 1900.

All of Charleston block eight was Church property, and the first brick church building was built there in 1873. The first presiding elder was John Watkins of Midway who would drive a pair of black mules back and forth from his home in Midway. There were no bridges to cross the Provo River at that time, and in the spring, when the water was high, he would drive by way of Soldier Hollow, then down Deckers Canyon by Bagley's ranch, go down the west side of the William Wright ranch, and back up to town. Townspeople claimed it took him all day to come to Sunday meetings and return to Midway.

According to resident Lulu North, "When the old brick meetinghouse was being built, Ethan Brown and his brother George went to Wallburg and got the sleepers to go under the floor, and his father, George W. Brown, hewed and made them ready. A man by the name of Franklin managed all the carpentry work, and as all who can remember will testify, it was very good workmanship. One of the old seats has been used in our present meetinghouse in the front on what is called the bishop's row."

One of the first trees planted in Charleston was a cottonwood tree on the old Eldridge homestead. It was planted by William Ryan in 1865 and stood for forty years, measuring three feet two inches across the trunk, and it was a Charleston landmark.

The first canal was built in 1875 by William and John Winterton, and it provided water for the central part of the town. The second canal was the Spring Creek Canal built by the people of Heber City. A small portion of the water came to Charleston. In 1895 the Spring Creek ditch was enlarged, and it became known as the Spring Creek and Sagebrush and watered the eastern part of Charleston. The Charleston Lower Canal system was built in 1887 by J. R. Murdock and completed in June of 1888. It watered the southwest part of the town.

George Smith built the first frame schoolhouse in 1873. He hauled the doors and windows from Salt Lake City by wagon. The rock schoolhouse, which later became the town hall, was built in 1889. This was replaced in 1904 by a sandstone school built with stones from the Heber City quarry.

The first man to operate a butcher shop and meat market was George Smith in the year 1880. He also bought and sold produce such as hay, grain, butter, and eggs. He drove a wagon for many years to Park City, peddling his wares, and often went to Salt Lake City for merchandise for the Murdock store.

The first blacksmith shop in Charleston, built about 1884, was built and operated by George T. Baker who came from American Fork.

Lulu North recalls that the first bridge to be built across the Provo River linking Charleston and Midway was built in the summer of 1892. Will Edwards hauled the planks from Heber City.

North recalls that the first train to come to Charleston came at 2:00 p.m. October 6, 1899. "It brought six carloads of people from Provo free of charge for being the first passenger train to come to Wasatch County. It was a big time for Charleston, and most of the residents were at the depot to see the train arrive. After that time, there were two trains a day."

In 1894 George Daybell built a small creamery on his farm and operated it until his business got too large for the building. Then J. R. Murdock bought shares in the business and built a larger building and called it the Charleston Cooperative Creamery. At one time they employed seven men to operate it. They had seven milk wagons hauling in the rush of the summer months and bought around 21,000 gallons of milk a day. Butter and cheese were shipped out of the area to places as far as California and some to eastern markets.

In 1894 there was a sawmill operated by J. R. Murdock, a meat market owned by Emil Kohler, a millinery shop owned by Phoebe North Daybell, a dressmaking parlor operated by Sarah Ritchie Wright, and a barber shop owned by Ernest Bates.



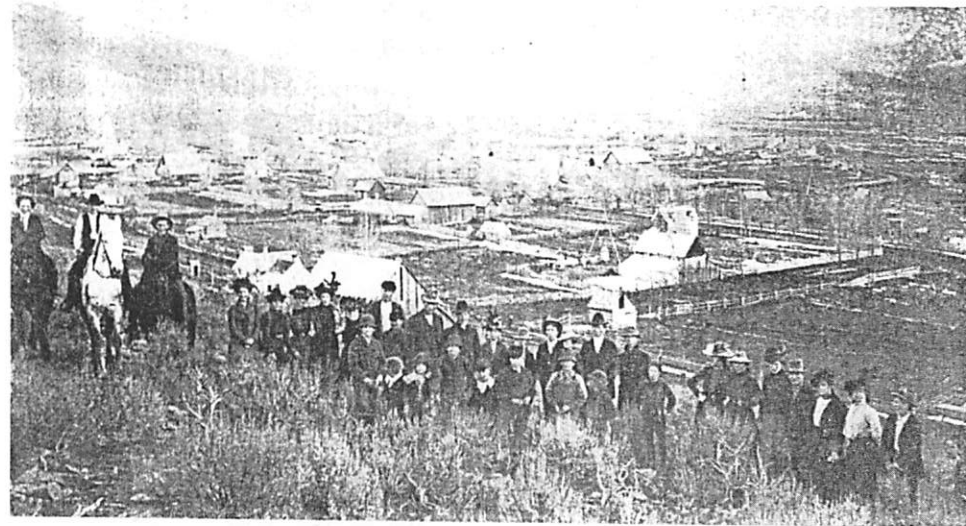
Creamery in Charleston, 1894.
Photograph from Wasatch DUP Publication.

William Wright was employed as toll gate keeper at Spring Dell in Provo Canyon for many years. He also taught some of the first schools in Charleston.

Mrs. North recalls that an amusement and dance hall was built in 1891. As the town grew, the schoolhouse was no longer large enough so some of the children went to classes in the amusement hall. The hall was later donated to the ward for a churchhouse.

In 1900 Dock Stevensen built and operated a saloon on the corner where Bill North's Service Station later stood. An open air dancing pavilion was built by P. C. Allen in 1915 and operated for two summers.

In 1938, work commenced on the Deer Creek Reservoir on the Provo River, and many Charleston residents were forced to relocate as hundreds of acres of choice lands would be underwater. The construction of the dam and reservoir brought about the decline of Charleston, and the town became a residential and farming area with almost no business district.²³



Early photograph of Wallsburg. Photograph from Wasatch DUP Publication.

WALLSBURG

Wallsburg, or Round Valley as it was once known, is located fourteen miles south of Heber City. The Indians called it Little Warm Valley. It was renamed Wallsburg after William Madison Wall, a native of North Carolina, who was a founder of the area and one of its first citizens. Wall had previously been a marshall in Provo and was one of the most skillful Indian negotiators among the Mormons. He frequently served assignments for President Brigham Young in pacifying the Indians.

The temperature in this secluded valley is somewhat warmer than in other parts of the county, and the growing season is a little longer. The valley is enclosed on three sides by mountains with access into the valley from the north end, making it ideal for grazing cattle.

The first group of settlers to go into the valley over the new road in Provo Canyon were George Washington Bean, William Meeks, Aaron Daniels, and William Wall. The Beans and Walls settled near the neck of the canyon in the south end of the valley where they had established their headquarters during the construction of the road. Daniels and Meeks went further north.

George Washington Bean, a surveyor and Indian interpreter along with his brother James, was active in getting the new canyon road built. He was the first to take up ground in Round Valley, and in the fall of 1860, he sold his holdings in Provo Valley to his father-in-law William M. Wall so he could spend more time improving his holdings in Round Valley. By 1864 he was no longer in Round Valley.

The early settlers still had property in Provo and spent only part of their time in Round Valley. By the winter of 1864-65, it became a permanent settlement with at least five families including William Wall, George Brown, William Jasper Boren, Dixon H. Greer, and one or possibly two other families.

Because of his leadership ability, Wall was called to serve as the presiding elder in Provo Valley and was responsible for all Church activity in the new area until 1861 when Joseph S. Murdock was sent by Brigham Young to be bishop of the new ward in Heber City. Wall continued to lead Church activities in Round Valley until his death September 18, 1869.

Other early settlers in Round Valley were Enoch and James Gurr and their families. Later came J. W. Boren, Moses Mechem, Edward Stokes, James and Reuben Allred, Guy Kaiser, George Brown, Luke Burdick, and Francis Kerby.

One Sunday afternoon in the spring of 1865, as Wall was conducting the Sabbath meeting, a messenger came from Heber City with word that the Indians were on the warpath under the direction of Chief Black Hawk and his brother Chief Tabby. The people were instructed to leave Round Valley and go to Heber City. The people packed what belongings they could and left the next morning for Heber City.

The settlement in Round Valley was at least a day's wagon ride away from the other settlers in the valley, so it was decided in 1865 to build a fort in Round Valley for protection. A fort, which was four hundred feet square, was built and twenty families moved into it for protection from the Indians. A one-room log house was built inside the fort for church, school, and entertainment.

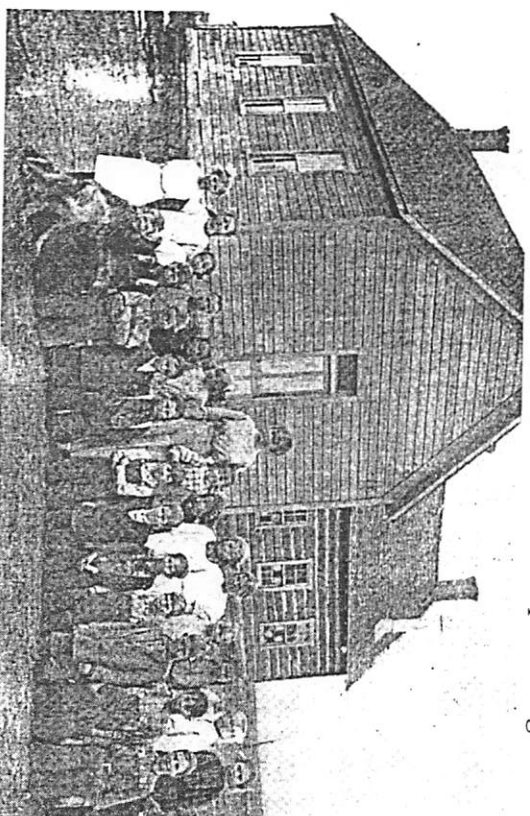
On July 15, 1877, an LDS ward was organized, and William E. Nuttall was appointed bishop. It was unanimously decided at that time that Round Valley should be named Wallsburg in honor of its founder and first citizen.

Today Wallsburg is a compact little valley with many beautiful homes. A few of the old buildings still remain. One of these is Elmo Ford's general store built in 1890 and operated as part of the ZCMI system until 1960. From 1919 to 1958 it was run by Alfred Ford; from 1958 to 1994 it was known as Elmo Ford's Mercantile. A son of Elmo took the store over in 1994 but closed it in 1998.

The Wallsburg school, constructed in 1904, was a large two-story brick building which today stands empty on a hill overlooking the town. It closed in 1961, and students are now bused into Heber City. Telephone service came to the little community in 1900 when the first line arrived at George A. Dabbling's store.²⁴

DANIELS

The area known as Daniels (sometimes Daniel) is located four miles south of Heber City at the mouth of Daniels Canyon. One of the first settlers was William Samuel Bethers who established a homestead at the mouth of the canyon in 1874 and built a log house for his family. This was the first of three homes that he built for his wife Phebe McMillan Bethers and their fourteen children. Others began homesteading in the area, and by 1885 there were sufficient persons to organize a branch of the Center Creek Ward with Joseph Jacob as the presiding elder.



Early school in Daniels. Photograph from Wasatch DUP Publication.

The town's name was derived in part from Daniels Creek, the major source of water. The creek had been named for Aaron Daniels, an early settler in the Charleston area, who had lived and worked along the stream.

A sister community to Daniels was Buysville named after Edward Buys who settled there in 1870. Buys and his wife Celestia Bromley Buys were called by Church leaders to help build up the Wasatch area. They left their home in Bountiful and moved to Charleston where they built the first shingle-roofed house in that community. Later they moved east to Big Hollow which soon became known as Buysville. As other families came to the area, a meetinghouse and school room was built. Buysville became a favorite spot for dancing because of the fiddling prowess of Edward Buys.

The Buysville area was identified with the Charleston Ward until 1896 when William McGhie was appointed presiding elder for the Buysville Branch. Meetings were held in the district schoolhouse. Two years later the branch became the Buysville Ward with Charles John Wahlquist as the first bishop.

In Daniels, the residents were affiliated with the Center Creek Ward until 1885 when Joseph Jacob was sustained as presiding elder of the Daniels Branch. He was succeeded in 1888 by John P. Jordan who served until November 29, 1898, when the Daniels Ward was formed with Bishop Patrick Henry McGuire.

The two wards, Buysville and Daniels, continued their meetings, socials, and other activities as separate units until May 10, 1903, when the members were called together to approve a merger of the two wards. The two wards were united with a unanimous vote of the members, and McGuire was sustained as bishop of the new combined ward. No action was taken to name the new ward until June 4, 1903, when it was learned that Apostle Rudger Clawson had suggested that it be called Daniel after Daniel H. Wells who had been mayor of Salt Lake City, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, and second counselor to President Brigham Young from 1857 to 1877.

During the thirteen years that McGuire served as bishop of Daniel Ward, much was accomplished for the ward. The Social Hall was constructed during 1908 and 1909, giving the ward a larger hall in which to hold Sunday services and ward social functions. He was also instrumental in leading the people to get telephone lines constructed into the area from Heber City.

A significant accomplishment of the early residents of the area was the construction of a canal from the Strawberry area through Daniels Canyon to Daniels. Hiram Oaks, his son John, and William S. Bethers, with only a crude spirit level and a plumb bob, set out to survey a canal

route into Provo Valley. The workmen labored from dawn to dusk to construct the canal which included a 1,000 foot tunnel through the divide into McGuire Canyon. Wages were stock in the irrigation company.

George Muir took the contract to drive the tunnel, and he sublet the work to James and Andrew Lindsay. One started from the east end and the other from the west. When they met, the west end was a foot higher than the east end which caused many problems. During spring runoffs, silt would settle at this point and cause the water to back up. Cave-ins were also a problem in the tunnel and dangerous to clear out.

They spent three difficult years of sacrifice and labor to build the three-mile Strawberry Canal, but by 1889 it was delivering some thirty-three second-feet of water into the Daniels area. Those who engineered the feat looked with pride at the first irrigation water brought across mountain ranges from the Colorado watershed into Wasatch County. Another canal, the seven-mile-long Willow Creek Canal, was finished in 1894 at a cost of about \$15,000. Then in 1922, the Strawberry, Willow Creek, and Daniels Canyon canals were incorporated into the Daniel Irrigation Company.²⁵

CENTER CREEK AND LAKE CREEK

The settlement known as Center Creek was named after a large creek flowing out of the mountains on the east side of the valley. The first settlers were drawn to the area (now part of southeast Heber City) because of the abundance of water and the rich, green meadowlands along Center Creek. Some of the early pioneers were Thomas Ross, Joseph Fawcett, Joseph Cluff, James Adams, and Jackson Smith and their families. By early 1861 there were twelve families which soon grew to twenty, and a branch of the LDS Church was organized with John Harvey as the leader.

In 1866 Indian troubles forced the settlers to move closer to the main settlements near Heber City, and for more than ten years, Center Creek was uninhabited. By 1877 the Indian problems were solved, and leaders in the valley deemed it safe for those along Center Creek to return to their homes. Many of the original families had become established near Heber City and decided not to return.

The Center Ward was organized on July 15, 1877, with Benjamin Cluff as bishop and Sidney Worsley and John Harvey as counselors.

As more families moved into the area, problems developed in distributing the water from Center Creek. Six reservoirs were built in Center Creek Canyon to store water. However, this did not resolve all the water problems as some of the early settlers attempted to stop the filling of the reservoirs after the dams were constructed. Many lively meetings ensued



Photograph of Center Creek School and students with principal Brigham Clegg.
The school was torn down in 1959. DUP Files.

before a reservoir company was organized in 1879. In 1887 the Center Creek Irrigation Company was formed which combined the early water companies, and it manages the distribution of water.

"While the community of Center Creek was growing, another community about two miles north of Center began to develop. This was known as Lake Creek."²⁶ The settlement of Lake Creek began about 1877 when Robert Lindsay and his wife Sarah Ann and William Lindsay and his wife Mary moved from Heber City to a site east of Heber City near a spring. As these two families prospered in their new location, others began to take up homesteads in the area. Some of these homesteaders included Bengt Peterson, James Nash, William Murdoch Sr., William Baird Sr., and John Crook.

A sandstone quarry was developed on property owned by John Crook and Herbert Clegg. The stone from this quarry, which is still in operation today, was used to build many of the homes and businesses in Wasatch County and even in Salt Lake City. It was also used to line the graves in the cemetery.

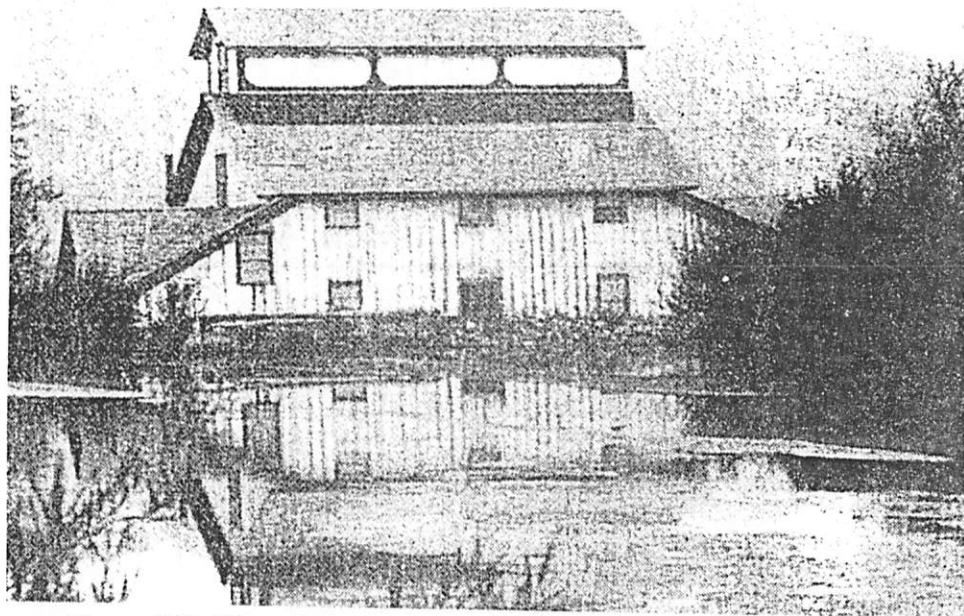
Lake Creek settlers also had their irrigation water problems and met on May 2, 1888, to formulate plans for an irrigation company. Robert Broadhead, chairman, and Robert Clegg, secretary, helped orga-

nize the company. Others who were involved in the company management were Henry Chatwin, John Lee, and Henry Clegg.

The Lake Creek settlement continued for several years with its own school and church organizations. Later it was assimilated into the Center Creek development and became part of that community.

One of the first sawmills in the valley was constructed in Center Creek Canyon by Henry McMullin, William M. Wall, and James Adams. A general store was opened by William Baxter who also operated a creamery.

In 1891 a Scotsman named Davie Pryde built a hall which was used for dancing, theater, weddings, school and church programs, and in later years, basketball. Pryde's Hall contained a kitchen along the east side which contained an old kitchen stove, a table, and some shelves. Two of the main cooks for the parties held in the hall were Mary Mair Lindsay and Sarah Jane Thompson Lindsay. Many of the early couples were married or held their receptions in this hall. "But the most important event was the 25th of January when all the Scots from far and near gathered to celebrate the birth of their favorite poet, Bobby Burns. The Ritchies from Charleston, O'Neils from Midway, the Lindsays, Montgomerys, Fishers, Turners, Murdocks, and many more gathered to sing and recite and dance. Barbara Dawson would dance the Highland Fling. Jim Lindsay would recite. Andrew Lindsay would sing 'Annie My Scotch Blue Bell' and 'Annie Laurie' with the group joining in the chorus. The evening would end with dinner and all singing 'Auld Lang Syne.' "²⁷



Flour mill in Wasatch County. Photograph from Wasatch DUP Publication.

In 1915, when the need for a new meetinghouse was felt, the settlers purchased a chapel in Heber City that had been used as a Methodist Church and moved the building to Center Creek. Bishop Hugh W. Harvey laughingly told the members of the ward that they had worked well together in converting a whole church to the Latter-day Saint faith. In 1923 a recreation hall was added to the building, and in 1927 electric lights were installed. By 1936 the congregation had outgrown the meetinghouse and a new chapel was erected and completed in 1938.

SOLDIERS SUMMIT

Soldiers Summit was the only town in Wasatch County which was outside the Provo Valley area. This small town had its beginning about 1862 in the midst of tragedy. "Soldiers from Johnston's Army, that had been stationed at Camp Floyd in Utah County, were recalled to aid in the Civil War. Desiring to return to the East as quickly as possible, many of the soldiers started up Spanish Fork Canyon along the pass between the Colorado Basin and the Great Basin. Caught in a blizzard common to the high mountain country, they died from exposure. The bodies were buried near the pass at a spot which became known as Soldiers Summit in their honor.

"Years later, as railroads began operating in the state, the Denver and Rio Grande Western Railroad found it advantageous to establish a traffic control point at the summit. Extra locomotives were needed to pull the trains over the pass, and the crews that operated these engines were based at Soldiers Summit. A roundhouse was built there to be used in turning the locomotives around, and the area began to flourish."²⁸

The town was incorporated as a city in 1921 at which time it had a population of more than one thousand. Businesses were established as well as a school. An LDS ward, which was part of the Nebo Stake of Utah County, was established as well as a Baptist church. During the boom years, a wax mine was discovered just east of the town and the refined wax was shipped east. Later years brought changes in railroad operation with the development of more powerful diesel engines and also the diversion of traffic to other routes. This brought about the downfall of Soldiers Summit. Today only a few families reside there.

HAILSTONE

Hailstone, or Elkhorn as it has been known at times, was homesteaded in 1864 and 1865 by William Paret Hailstone, Ann Davis Hailstone, William Davis, and William Denton Moulton. It was located about nine miles

north of Heber City, and the site is now covered by the waters of the Jordanelle Reservoir. The construction of the reservoir in the 1990s displaced approximately one hundred people, covering three businesses, farms, and a family cemetery. It also destroyed wildlife and river habitat.

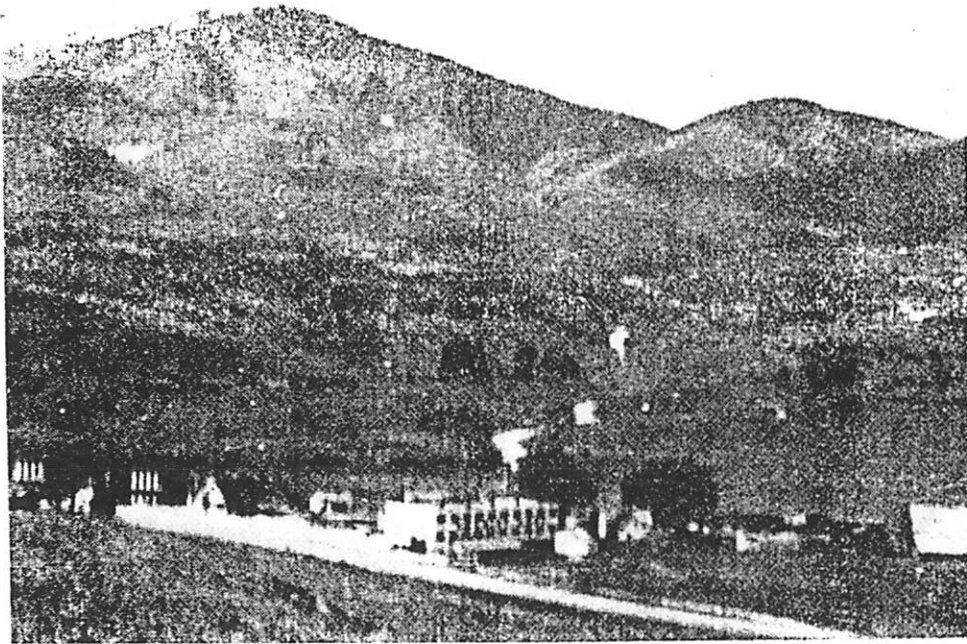
The settlers in the Hailstone area built small log homes at first and later constructed larger dwellings. One of the most elegant homes was built in 1877 by William Moulton. The house was constructed from sandstone brought from the Lake Creek quarry. The house contained two master bedrooms, two staircases, and two inside bathrooms which was a luxury for its day. Moulton had prospered in selling supplies to mining camps at Park City and had built a large ranch which included a two-story milk shed with a pipeline leading to the dairy room in the house and another pipe line leading back to the calf shed for skim milk. There was also a large slaughter house, an ice house, and a well inside the barn. The house was so well known that the stage coach line from Heber City to Salt Lake City built a side road so that passengers could view both back and front of the home and its surroundings.

Later, a daughter, Emily Hailstone Morris, and her husband Joseph Morris, operated the original Hailstone property. Afterwards the operation was taken over by their sons Harry, Moroni, and Rodney Morris. They were followed by the sons of Harry Morris. In 1939 some of the land was sold to the New Park Mining Company and the remaining part to the LDS Church for a welfare farm. The old mansion was torn down in 1959.

The property owned by Henry Cluff later had a number of small homes on the property which were rented to men working at the Park Utah Mine. Hailstone's greatest industrial development, apart from its support to the mining industry, came in 1929 when the Great Lakes Timber Company was established there. The company continued with its headquarters at Hailstone until 1960 when it moved to LaPoint in Uintah County.

Another fine home was built by Benjamin Norris under a towering rocky crag alongside the Provo River. A large American flag was painted on the rock face. Some claimed that Norris painted it; others claim that soldiers from Fort Douglas painted it long before Hailstone was settled. Whatever its origins, Norris and his family maintained it for many years, and it became a landmark for the area. A legend in the area is that Sam Norris had buried \$300 behind the house in 1917. His secret was revealed sixty years later shortly before he died. So far as is known, the coins were never recovered.

Schools and a branch of the LDS Church existed for a time in Hailstone. Later, when a larger building was constructed near Keetley, children went to Keetley for their education until the Wasatch County School Board consolidated schooling in the Heber City schools.



Picture of Keetley in Wasatch County.

All remnants of the town were obliterated with the waters of the Jordanelle Reservoir.
Photograph from Wasatch DUP Publication.

KEETLEY

The northernmost settlement in Wasatch County was the town of Keetley which owed its existence to mining activity in the area. It was the last community in the county to be organized, and for several decades it was known and identified only as a mining shaft. Its location was first plotted in 1887 when leaders of the Park City Mining District chose a point of elevation for the portal of a drainage tunnel from the properties of the Daly Mining Company and the Ontario Silver Mining Company. The man chosen to supervise the work on the tunnel was John B. "Jack" Keetley. Keetley was born November 28, 1841, and grew up in Marysville, Kansas. While a youth, he became a pony express rider. He engineered the Ontario Drain Tunnels, and by 1898, Tunnel No. 2 had been completed to drain the Park City properties of the mining companies. In June 1917, the Park Utah Mining Company was incorporated and secured rights to use the five-mile drain tunnel. (Water from the drain tunnel now flows into the Jordanelle Reservoir.)

Keetley was a generous man, particularly fond of children, and many residents of the county who were youngsters during the construction of

the tunnel remember him for his kindness to them as they romped over the hills under which his men were digging. Years later, George A. Fisher, a prominent cattleman and land developer, named the community which developed in the valley below the project, Keetley, in honor of his "childhood hero."

Other mining projects took place in this area. The McCune Tunnel west of Keetley, and the McHenry Shaft in the same area both produced no results. Later it was discovered that the McHenry Shaft had missed a vast vein of ore by only eighteen feet. Another failed effort directly above the spot where the portal of the drain tunnel was placed failed because it was focused too high on the Blue Ledge slope.

The East Utah shaft, the Columbus Tract on Bonanza Flat, and the Glen Allen or "Glencoe" were developed in the area. Many fortunes were lost in these endeavors. A refining mill was constructed on the Glencoe property through which the discovered ore was reduced to concentrate. The Vallejo project, further south in the mountains west of Jordanelle, was worked intermittently for several years even though a heavy percentage of iron in the ore made transportation a serious problem. A wagon load of this ore was so heavy that at one time the Provo River bridge buckled as George McDonald drove over it as he was headed south towards Heber City. McDonald escaped alive, but his wagon and team were lost and the bridge was destroyed.

Even before Keetley's mining boom, the Gail Fisher family lived in the area in a rambling farm house on the Fisher Ranch. When the Union Pacific Railroad came to the Keetley area in 1923, the community's future seemed secure, and Charles Roy Lenzi of Park City was hired to paint the houses and mine buildings that had been constructed around the mine tunnel. Mr. Lenzi decided afterwards to settle in the area and brought his family from Park City. He was later appointed postmaster.

George Fisher, besides building his home and six rental units on the east side of the highway, constructed a store on the west side which furnished meat and produce to the miners and local residents and was a gathering place for the townspeople. South of the mine road he erected a row of small cabins. On the north was a two-story, ten-unit apartment building which housed miners and their families.

The school in Hailstone (Elkhorn) was a small wooden building with twelve grades. In 1924 the Elkhorn schoolhouse was jacked off its foundation and dragged across the fields to a new location just south and west of the Keetley store. This one-room school served for a year until a new school, a two-story brick building, was built.

In 1927, two men known as Big and Little Joe from Butte, Montana, built an 80-foot square amusement hall, painted it blue, and named it

the Blue Goose. This became a favorite entertainment spot for miners. It also offered entertainment such as boxing and wrestling matches. "On weekends, dances were held at the Blue Goose. A Salt Lake City socialite, who also ran a string of girls in Park City, furnished dance partners. Later, when it became more lucrative to take the girls to Salt Lake City, the dances were attended by local girls."²⁹

The depression era was the start of the decline of Keetley. The Blue Goose closed its doors in 1930 and was later torn down. The decline of mining further depressed the area.

An interesting part of the history of Keetley occurred during World War II when a prosperous Oakland produce dealer named Fred Imasu Wada visited the area. His wife Masako was from Ogden, and they were investigating possible areas for relocation for himself and California Japanese. Wada decided that eastern Utah was too remote, and he struck a bargain with Mayor George Fisher of Keetley who leased him land in exchange for bringing Japanese farm laborers to the area.

Some local hostility to the proposal was displayed, but Fisher assured the residents that all Japanese would be American citizens, some of them second generation.

On March 26, 1942, Wada and a number of other families left Oakland for Utah. They left just in time to avoid being moved to Japanese internment camps which began about that time. When the weather improved enough to clear the property, the Japanese started work repairing buildings, planting a large truck garden, and raising chickens, pigs, and goats. Later, the Keetley farmers would herd beef cattle and raise dairy cows as well. The men also worked on local farms, especially in the sugar beet fields.

The occasional hostility shown to the new residents of the county was resolved as the local residents were assured that the Japanese were there to produce foodstuff for the war effort. The Japanese children attended school in either Park City or Heber City. The adults maintained close ties to the Japanese internees at the Topaz relocation camp in Millard County. About two-thirds of them returned to their homes in California after the war ended. The others remained in Utah, scattering to a number of different communities. Fred Isamu Wada, who had lost all his previously owned property in Oakland, moved his family to the Los Angeles area where he prospered in the produce business for many years.

As for Keetley, the small community came to an end with the rising waters of Jordanelle Reservoir in 1995.³⁰

STRAWBERRY RESERVOIR

The dam and reservoir in Strawberry Valley were completed in 1912 at which time there were 8,600 acres underwater and about 45,500 acres in the area used for range lands. The reservoir was enlarged in 1973 when the Soldier Creek Dam was constructed. The existing Strawberry Dam and Indian Creek Dike were partially removed which merged the two reservoirs, increasing the total surface acres of Strawberry Reservoir to 17,160 acres at high water.

Besides providing an important source of water to a large part of Utah, it has become a valuable recreation spot. A large number of summer homes have been built in the area as well as a motel, a visitors center, and several marinas. Daniels Summit has also developed as a winter sports area.

NOTES

- ¹ Wm. James Mortimer, ed., *How Beautiful Upon the Mountains*, (Wasatch County Daughters of Utah Pioneers, 1933), 4.
- ² Ibid., 5.
- ³ Ibid., 6.
- ⁴ Ibid., 8.
- ⁵ Ibid., 10.
- ⁶ Ethel Johnson, "A Brief History of Wasatch County," DUP Files.
- ⁷ Mortimer, *How Beautiful Upon the Mountains*, 28.
- ⁸ Ibid., 45.
- ⁹ Ibid., 47.
- ¹⁰ Ibid., 49.
- ¹¹ Jessie L. Embry, *A History of Wasatch County* (Salt Lake City: Utah State Historical Society/Wasatch County Commission, 1996), 249.
- ¹² Ibid., 251.
- ¹³ Mortimer, *How Beautiful Upon the Mountains*, 80-1.
- ¹⁴ Ibid., 84.
- ¹⁵ Ibid., 85.
- ¹⁶ Ibid., 108-09.
- ¹⁷ Ibid., 113.
- ¹⁸ Ibid., 116.
- ¹⁹ Ibid., 160.
- ²⁰ Ibid., 171.
- ²¹ Ibid., 177-78.
- ²² Information from a personal interview with Henry Van Wagoner on February 22, 1933, by Dorothy Holmes. Van Wagoner was born May 22, 1861, and died July 27, 1933, after living in Midway his entire life.
- ²³ Information taken from Mortimer's *How Beautiful Upon the Mountains*; Lulu North, Wasatch DUP Historian, "Some of the Early History of Charleston," DUP Files.
- ²⁴ Mortimer, *How Beautiful Upon the Mountains*; Elda K. Cullimore, "History of Wallsburg," DUP Files.
- ²⁵ Mortimer, *How Beautiful Upon the Mountains*, 821-29.
- ²⁶ Ibid., 1048.
- ²⁷ Ibid., 1053.
- ²⁸ Ibid., 1117.
- ²⁹ Marilyn Curtis White, "Keetley, Utah: The Birth and Death of a Small Town," *Utah Historical Quarterly*, 62 (Summer 1994), 246-55.
- ³⁰ "The Japanese Agricultural Colony at Keetley, Wasatch County," *The History Blazer*, (Utah State Historical Society), 069505 (JN).

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